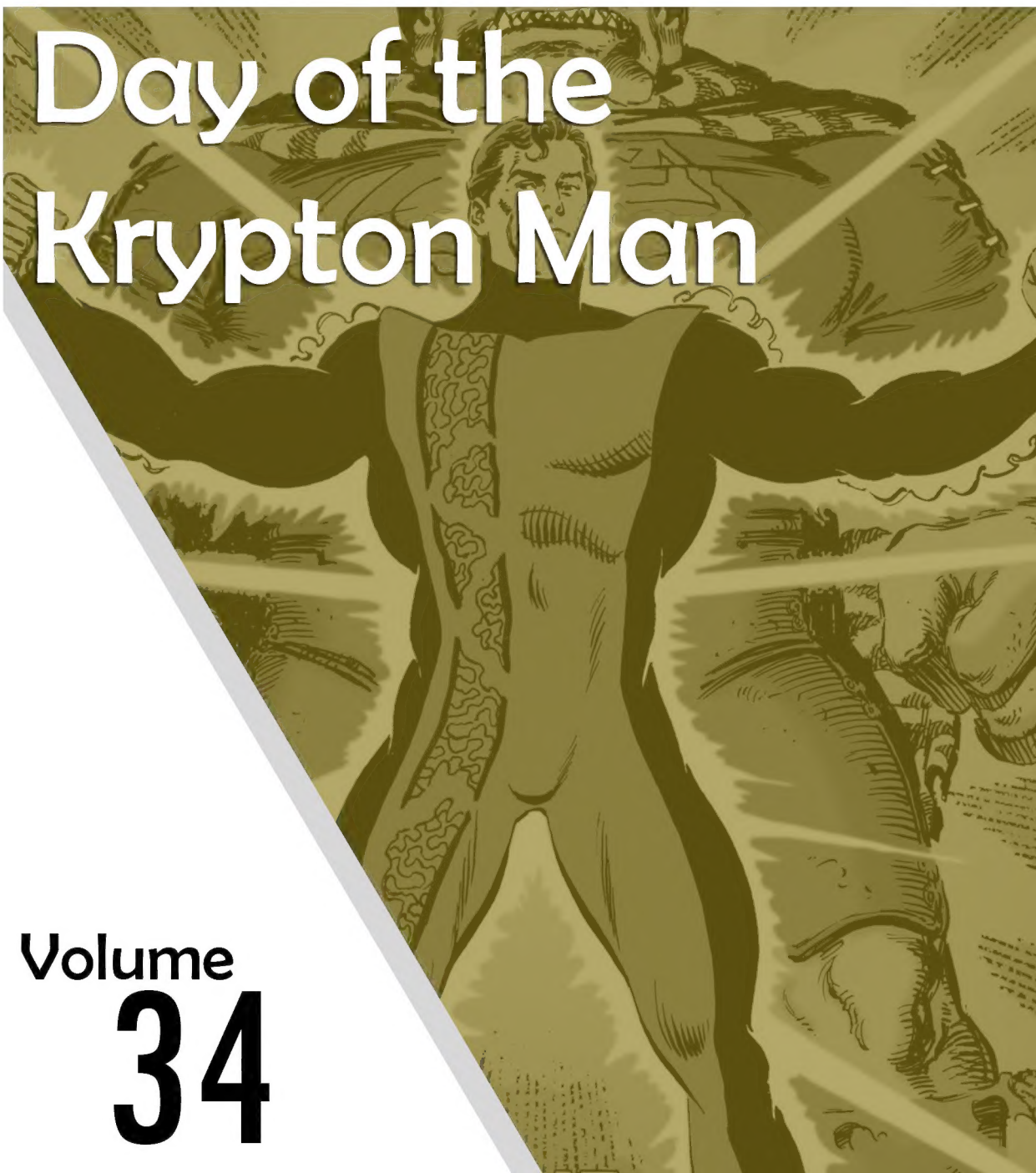
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Day of the Krypton Man



Volume 34

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Day of the Krypton Man 34

DOCTOR KIMBERLY! I'M ON *SOMETHING* HERE...

THE *SENSORS* ARE GOING *BONKERS* IN *THIS* DIRECTION!

'THINK IT'S THE *METEOR* THAT OUR *LEXCORP* SATELLITES CHARTED?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HOPING, THEA! IT LANDED SOME TIME BACK, SO EXPECT THE SITE TO BE OVERGROWN WITH BRUSH BY NOW.

A FEW WEEDS WON'T STAND IN THE WAY OF RECOVERING *THIS* SPACE-ROCK, EH?

WONDER WHAT THEY'D SAY IF THEY KNEW WE WERE HUNTING FOR *KRYPTONITE*, THE ONLY SUBSTANCE *LETHAL* TO *SUPERMAN!*

LUTHOR HAS HAD US MONITORING METEOR ACTIVITY FOR JUST THIS REASON...

...AND IF I CAN PRESENT HIM WITH A GOOD *CHUNK* OF IT, I'D BE WORKING AT LEXCORP TOWER IN NO TIME FLAT!

DOCTOR, HOW COME IT'S TAKEN SO LONG TO CHECK OUT *THIS* SITE?

DIPLOMATIC *RED TAPE*-- THIS IS *NOT* AMERICA, YOU KNOW!

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MY MY, WHATEVER ARE WE TO DO? THOSE *BUSYBODIES* ARE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

NOW *CALM* YOURSELF AND LET *ME* HANDLE THIS.

I SAY WE USE "*TREVOR*" ON THEM!

OH, DON'T BE SILLY-- THERE'S ONLY THREE OF THEM, AND "*TREVOR*" WOULD NO DOUBT CAUSE *QUITE* THE *SPLASH!*

THAT COULD ONLY SERVE TO *PIQUE* THE INTEREST OF THE VILLAGERS, BRINGING *MORE* OF THEM TO *MILL* ABOUT!

OH YES, I *DO* STAND CORRECTED, MY DEAR FRIEND!

IT *MOST* CERTAINLY ISN'T *WISE* TO DRAW UNDUE ATTENTION TO OUR LITTLE *FACTORY* HERE...

...ESPECIALLY *NOT* AS WE ARE TO EMBARK ON OUR MOST AMBITIOUS *PROJECT* TO DATE.

I HAVE A *DELIGHTFUL* SUGGESTION-- LET'S ALLOW *LOT* FORTY-TWO TO *VENT* THEIR AGGRESSIONS!

"*AS EVER, BROTHER, YOU ARE NOTHING SHORT OF BRILLIANT!*"

DOWN THERE, IN THAT RAVINE-- WE'RE ABOUT TO STRIKE *PAYDIRT!*

YAARRRR

HUURRRH

LEXCORP

YAAARRRR

RRACK!

SHESH

"OH YYYESSS. WHAT AN EFFICIENT CHOICE YOU'VE MADE, MY FRIEND--LOCH TREVOR CLAIMS YET ANOTHER VEHICLE!"

EXTEK U/K

AH. WELL, ENOUGH FRIVOLITY-- WE HAVE *IMPORTANT* BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, *MOKKARI*.

INDEED, WE HAVE AN *EGG* TO HATCH!

I FEEL *VERY* GOOD ABOUT *THIS* ONE, *SIMYAN*.

AS DO I, FRIEND.

CRIK

THIS ONE SHALL *BENEFIT* FROM A GENETIC MEMORY OF THE *PAST* EXPERIENCES OF ITS PREDECESSORS...

ARUK!

...PREVENTING IT FROM *REPEATING* THE ERRORS OF EARLIER MODELS, SIMYAN?

THIS *MUST* SUCCEED, FOR I GROW WEARY OF *PLAYING* WITH *GENE* SAMPLES CULLED FROM OUR OWN *BACKYARD*.

OUR *RETURN* TO METROPOLIS *HAS* TO BE OUR *GREATEST MOMENT!*

DON'T *FRET*, FOR ONCE THE *PENETRATOR BEAM* TRANSPORTS THIS "*TERROR*" TO OUR OLD HOME--

--THE PLANET WILL BE *OURS!*

AAARUK!

DAILY PLANET

THE NEW STRIPPER

SUPERMAN
created by
JERRY SIEGEL and
JOE SHUSTER

WRITER & ARTIST
JERRY ORDWAY

Inker
DENNIS JANKE

Colorist
GLENN WHITMORE

Letterer
JOHN COSTANZA

Associate Editor
JON PETERSON

EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN

INSPIRATION
JACK KIRBY

JERRY!

PERRY WHITE

OF ALL THE STUBBORN, PIG-HEADED...!

MY FATHER SHOWS MORE *CONCERN* FOR A *COPY GIRL** THAN FOR HIS *OWN SON!*

NO SMOKING

WONK!

* Please see ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #462.

I *HEARD* THAT MY MOM AND DAD TOOK YOU IN, ALICE...

ENJOY *MY* OLD ROOM!

!!

PLANET

HURM.

SOOOO-- HOW 'BOUT THIS *WEATHER*, EH?

PERRY WHITE

DAILY PLANET

UH, RIGHT!

ITOR

ALICE, I *APOLOGIZE* FOR MY SON...

THE *REST* OF YOU CAN QUIT *GAWKING* AND GET BACK TO WORK!

CHIEF... ER, BOSS?

OLSEN, I'M IN *NO MOOD*, SO THIS BETTER BE--!

OH, COME IN AND *CLOSE* THAT DOOR!

THANKS.

I *NEED* TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY MOTHER, AND, IN A WAY, ABOUT MY *FATHER*.

SON, I'VE TALKED TO YOUR MOM SO MANY TIMES ALREADY, ABOUT YOUR JOB HERE...

NO, IT'S *NOT* THAT AGAIN.

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM HER IN *OVER* A *MONTH!*

OLSEN, I'M *SORRY*, I DIDN'T KNOW...

DAILY PLANET

LAST PLACE SHE CALLED ME FROM WAS *ENGLAND*...

SHE'D GONE THERE IN *SEARCH* OF MY FATHER, WHO SHE BELIEVED WAS *STILL ALIVE!*

I *GREW UP* THINKING HE WAS *DEAD*, BY *NOW*, I'M *SURE* MOM WAS ON *SOME-THING*...

...BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED THAT SHE'S BEING HELD CAPTIVE, SOMEWHERE IN SCOTLAND!

HOLD ON.

WHO'S HOLDING HER-- TERRORISTS? MAYBE THE *STATE DEPARTMENT* CAN ASSIST.

HOW *RELIABLE* IS YOUR SOURCE?

I *HAVE* TO GET OVER THERE!

SON, THESE PAST WEEKS HAVE BEEN TOUGH ENOUGH ON YOU...

...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU GO RUNNING OFF HALF-COCKED AFTER HER--IF SHE'S IN TROUBLE, LET'S GET THE AUTHORITIES INVOLVED!

I *CAN'T* EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, BUT THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER, AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT ON MY OWN!

THE PAPER PAYS MY PLANE FARE TO SCOTLAND, AND I GIVE YOU A MOTHER/SON REUNION STORY FOR THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE!

I'M SORRY, BUT "NO."

I WON'T LET YOU *EXPLOIT* YOUR SITUATION THAT WAY.

WE'LL HIRE PRIVATE INVESTI-GATORS TO FIND HER, IF NO ONE ELSE CAN, OR EVEN PUT THE WORD OUT TO SUPERMA--

UH-UHH!

I *ESPECIALLY* DON'T WANT *HIM* INVOLVED! I'LL GET TO GREAT BRITAIN ON MY *OWN, SOMEHOW!*

BOY! THE WAY YOU ARE WITH THIS PAPER'S *MONEY*...

"IT'S NO WONDER CLARK KENT LEFT THE 'PLANET' TO EDIT NEWSTIME MAGAZINE!"

THIS *IS* A DILEMMA. AS MANAGING EDITOR, I'VE GOT TO CHOOSE THE *TOP TEN* STORIES OF THIS YEAR.

THE PUBLISHER, COLLIN THORNTON, PREFERS "*FLASHY*" STORIES TO THE "*SLICE OF LIFE*" HUMAN INTEREST TYPES.

FLASHY, AS IN "*SUPERMAN SAVES CITY FROM TIDAL WAVE!*"*

IT *WAS* A BIG STORY, BUT I'D RATHER NOT BLOW MY OWN HORN HERE...

I'D *RATHER* SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE "*ORDINARY JOES*," LIKE THE POLICE, FIRE, AND MILITARY GUYS WHO HELD THE CITY TOGETHER.

* *It happened in SUPERMAN #38.*

MR. KENT...

YOU HAVE A STAFF MEETING IN TEN MINUTES.

STAFFS, BUDGETS, IT'S STILL PRETTY NEW TO ME.

NEED ANYTHING ELSE?

FRIGHTENING, BUT IN A *GOOD* WAY--I DID THE RIGHT THING TAKING THIS JOB.

??

WHAT IN *HECK* IS *THAT* ON THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING?

MARA, ABOUT THAT STAFF MEETING...

HEY! HOW'S IT GOING MISS ADAM?

OH, ALAN, CALL ME PEG!

DAILY ☆ STAR

2 CUT IN SUBWAY SLASH-FEST

50% OFF

SALE

EEEEK!

THERE'S A MONSTER OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!

YEAH, RIGHT!

HEY! SUPERMAN, THANK GOD!

ARUK?

IT'S NOT NICE TO SCARE FOLKS LIKE THAT, ROCKY!

HONEY, THIS IS METROPOLIS--YOU GET USED TO IT!

I D-DON'T KNOW...

ALL THOSE ARMS--OVER-WHELMING ME...

BAM

WHAM

POW

WHEN THIS "FOUR ARMED TERROR" GRABBED ME, I SUDDENLY FELT NAUSEOUS...

BUT...I CAN'T DETECT ANY OF IT ON HIM.

THE ONLY THING THAT'S EVER DONE THAT TO ME WAS KRYPTONITE!

WHERE'D THIS THING COME FROM, AND WHY DID HE SHOW UP AT THE DAILY PLANET?

WELL, I'D BETTER PONDER THAT AFTER I'VE CARRIED THIS FIGHT OVER THE WATER...

MADD Says: DON'T DRIVE DRUNK

...METROPOLIS HAS ALREADY TAKEN A BEATING LATELY, WHAT WITH THAT *TIDAL WAVE*, AMONG OTHER THINGS!

THE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY USED UP!

AARUUUK!

WHUD!

;UGHHH!; THERE IT IS AGAIN-- THAT *SICK* FEELING, WEAKENING ME.

YOU *SEE* THAT?

BAM BAM

RRAAK

SCRATCH ONE TRANSMITTER TOWER!

POW

BAM

YOU WANT I SHOULD GET IN *CLOSER?*

YOU HAVE TO *ASK?*

IT'S FOOTAGE OF *SUPES* GETTING *DRUBBED...*

WGBS

WGBS

"...YOU KNOW HOW MUCH EXTRA MORGAN EDGE WILL PAY FOR THAT!"

PARK 8AM

AHHH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK, MORTY!

WELL, AS YOUR LAWYER, I'D SAY--

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

HUH?

SMASH

WHAT IN HELL?

I SURE DIDN'T HAVE YOU ARRANGE BAIL FOR ME SO I COULD DIE IN FRONT OF MY OWN BUILDING!

AXX BUILDING

THEN LET'S GET INSIDE PRONTO!

WHY, MISTAH MORGAN! WHAT A SURPRISE!

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

SUPERMAN IS BATTLING SOME BIG, WEIRD MONSTER!

LIKE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN EVERY MONTH!

I HOPE IT KILLS THAT POMPOUS BOY SCOUT!

COOL IT WITH THE DIATRIBE IN PUBLIC!

MY HATE FOR SUPERMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE...

I'M NOT CHANGING THAT TUNE JUST BECAUSE OF SOME TRUMPED UP CHARGES THE COPS HAVE BROUGHT AGAINST ME!

SPEAKING ABOUT THAT, LET'S DISCUSS YOUR UPCOMING TRIAL.

ONE WORD -- *BRAINIAC!*

HE CAUSED A *LOT* OF TROUBLE FOR *LEXCORP* RECENTLY, 'TIL SUPERMAN CHASED HIM AWAY -- POSSIBLY *OFF* THE *PLANET!*

LUTHOR SAID BRAINIAC *MIND-CONTROLLED HIM* AND OTHER *KEY PERSONNEL*, CAUSING BILLIONS IN DAMAGE TO HIS CORPORATION!*

YOU HONESTLY WANT *ME* TO TELL A JUDGE THAT "*AN ALIEN MADE ME DO IT?*"

*SEE ACTION COMICS #647-649

LOOK, SUPERMAN *CAUGHT YOU* WITH YOUR HANDS *ON* THE CONTROLS OF THAT GIANT ROBOT, *TURMOIL!**

I WANT YOU TO TELL THE COURT *DIS*HONESTLY THAT *BRAINIAC* WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR *THAT* AND FOR CAUSING YOUR *HEART ATTACK!*

* ACTION COMICS #643

A JURY'LL BUY THAT BEFORE THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU WERE DOING THE BIDDING OF THE *GODS!*

ONE TREACHEROUS GOD -- DESAAD, WHO POSED AS *DARKSEID*, LORD OF *APOKOLIPS*--

-- IN ORDER TO GET ME TO SET UP *INTER-GANG* FOR *HIS* PURPOSE -- CREATING *CHAOS* ON EARTH!

WELL, *THINK* ON IT, MR EDGE.

HUH? OH, WELL, YOU'RE THE LAWYER.

MISS CONWAY, ALERT THE *BOARD* THAT I WILL BE PRESIDING OVER OUR MONTHLY MEETING TODAY.

MISTER EDGE! I DON'T THINK THAT'D BE WISE...

STAND ASIDE, CONWAY, OR YOU'RE *FIRED.*

MR. EDGE, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, *DON'T* GO IN THERE!

YOU JUST *LOST* YOUR *JOB, LADY!*

OHHHH.

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER, MORGAN.

AND MISS CONWAY, DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE *NOT* FIRED.

YOU ALWAYS DID TREAT THE *HELP* BETTER THAN YOUR OWN *FAMILY, FATHER!*

TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY, YOUNG LADY...

MATTER OF FACT, SON, YOU CAN GO HOME AS WELL!

THINGS ARE *UNDER CONTROL.*

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO IN MY OWN COMPANY, OLD MAN!

NOW GET OUT BEFORE I HAVE SECURITY THROW YOU OUT BODILY-- *AGAIN!*

YOU CAN BE SO UNGRATEFUL SOMETIMES!

WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE KEPT THIS STORE RUNNING WHILE YOU WERE IN THE *HOSPITAL?*

WE'RE ONE BIG *HAPPY GALAXY* AGAIN, JUNIOR...

AT LEAST SINCE THE BOARD HAS REINSTATED *ME* AS *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER!*

WHAAAT--?

CLARK WILL HELP ME--HE'S MY *BEST* FRIEND. I JUST HOPE HE'S *STILL* IN THE OFFICE.

WHOAH! SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING ON BY THE *NEWS-TIME BUILDING!*

EXCUSE ME-- WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE?

Y'MEAN Y'AIN'T HEARD??

PARIS

Burnley ation

A B D

"*SUPERMAN'S GETTIN' HIS BUTT KICKED UP AND DOWN THE AVENUE!*"

POW

I CAN BARELY LIFT MY ARMS TO *DEFEND* MYSELF-- I'M *SO* WEAK...

POW

MY SUPER-SENSES DETECTED A RADIATION PRESENT IN THIS THING'S CELLS--BUT IT'S NOT *EXACTLY* KRYPTONITE.

WAM WAM

I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM WHAT-EVER IT'S *EXUDING*--

BOOF

--LONG ENOUGH TO SCAN FOR *SAME* CLUE AS TO HIS PURPOSE!

HO-LEE! THAT MONSTER'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF THE EIGHT-ARMED THING WHO CHASED ME AROUND IN HUSQUE'S DIMENSION! *

SORRY, KID, NOT EVEN PRESS ARE ALLOWED THROUGH!

THE TIME I SPENT IN THAT VOID SEEMS LIKE A BAD DREAM NOW, BUT I DID LEARN SOME THINGS ABOUT MY MOM AND DAD...

...AND THIS TERROR IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THAT--IT HAS TO BE!

HEY, GIRLIE-- WHATCHA DRAWRING?

* SUPERMAN #39.

DAT DON'T LOOK LIKE SUPERMAN--YOU DRAWED 'IM TOO YOUNG, LIKE A SUPERBOY! HAW HAW!

SUPES ISN'T DOING TOO WELL OUT THERE...

...AND THOUGH HE AND I DON'T GET ALONG THESE DAYS, I WISH I COULD HELP HIM SOMEHOW--

"--BUT HOW? I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS ANYMORE... OR DO I?"

THOSE TINY THINGS BUZZING AROUND US--

--I THOUGHT THEY WERE FLIES, BUT MY MICROSCOPIC-VISION SHOWS ME DIFFERENT!

THEY APPEAR TO BE HUMANOID--CARRYING TRANSMITTERS OR SOMETHING!

"THIS BATTLE'S BEING MONITORED"

OH MY, THIS IS TERRIBLE! HE'S DISCOVERED OUR "GATHERERS."

I JUST *KNOW* HE'S GOING TO FIND US. THEY'LL KNOW ABOUT THE *WOMAN*-- AND ALL THE OTHERS!

THEN THEY'LL TAKE US *BACK* TO THE *PROJECT*--! :*OUCH*:!

SNAP OUT OF IT! WE *AREN'T* GOING BACK-- I *PROMISE* YOU!

SMAK

AND THE *WOMAN* AMUSES ME.

THANK YOU FOR THAT, FRIEND. AS EVER, YOU ARE CORRECT.

INDEED. THE DAY OUR BELOVED CREATOR, DR. DONOVAN, PASSED ON, WAS OUR *LAST* DAY AT PROJECT CADMUS.

THIS IS OUR HOME NOW, WHERE *WE* ARE THE *CREATORS*!

OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SEARCHED, ONLY *TWO* HAVE FOUND US--

--THE HEAD OF CADMUS'S SECURITY, COMMANDER OLSEN, AND THEN HIS MATE, BLUNDERING UPON *US* IN HER QUEST FOR *HIM*.

HE *WAS* A FINE SPECIMEN, EH, MOKKARI?

I HAD HIGHER HOPES FOR HIS *CLONAL OFFSPRING*!

HOW CAN I FORGET? NUMBER ONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FEMALE FINDING--

OOH! THE *SCREEN*!

YOUR SKITTISH NATURE IS GRATING ON ME!

OUR "*GATHERERS*" HAVE SUFFICIENT TISSUE SAMPLES *AND* THE TERROR HAS ALREADY BESTED SUPERMAN!

BUT DEAR SIMYAN -- HOW CAN *THIS* BE?

AN OLSEN?! I WAS CERTAIN *ALL* THE CLONES HAD BEEN TERMINATED!

HEY! UGLY! GET BACK!

"MAYBE THE WOMAN WILL KNOW."

BONK

JIMMY, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? THIS CREATURE WILL KILL YOU!

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, SUPERMAN!

NOW GET AWAY, BEFORE IT KILLS YOU!

I'M BANKING ON THE FACT THAT THIS GUY RECOGNIZES ME -- OR THINKS HE DOES!

AAA-RUK!

GET BACK, I SAID--

--BACK, OR I'LL SHOW YOU THE COLORS!

THIS IS HOW MY DA--UM, A GUY CALLED "NUMBER ONE" DEALT WITH THESE BEASTS IN THE VOID! *

* Once again, last month in SUPERMAN #39.

JIMMY NEVER TOLD ANYONE WHAT HE EXPERIENCED THERE...

...BUT RIGHT AFTER HE GOT OUT, HE KEPT SAYING THAT HE'D MET HIS FATHER!

YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT...!

JIM, WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THAT COMPLICATED RED-HEAD OF YOURS?

I'LL BURN YOU!

GOD GIVE ME COURAGE, IT'S WORKING! BUT WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

SPEAK, WOMAN! IS THIS FACE *FAMILIAR* TO YOU?

OH DEAR *GOD!* LET ME OUT OF THIS--!

YOU *MONSTERS!* WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY *SON?*

I'LL *KILL* YOU BOTH IF :-(

CLIK

SON? IT APPEARS THAT WE'VE BEEN TRICKED.

WHIRRRRRR

COMMANDER OLSEN DIVULGED *PRECIOUS LITTLE* TO US DURING HIS INTERNMENT HERE--EVEN *LESS* ABOUT HIS FAMILY!

I'VE SET THE *PENETRATOR BEAM* TO PICK UP OUR "*TERROR*" AND GATHERERS.

GOOD. WIDEN THE SCOPE, TO INCLUDE THE *BOY.*

PERHAPS WE SHOULD TAKE THE SUPERMAN AS WELL, SINCE HE IS IN A *WEAKENED* STATE!

WE'VE COLLECTED THE NECESSARY TISSUE SAMPLES FROM HIM ALREADY. LEAVE HIM TO LICK HIS WOUNDS!

JIM! STAND AWAY-- SOME SORT OF *ENERGY FIELD* IS CIRCLING THAT *MONSTER!*

NO! HE'S STOPPED ATTACKING--

I THINK HE WANTS ME TO GO WITH HIM...

JIMMY-- NO!

IT-IT'LL TAKE ME TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER!

WUD

NNNNN

NOOOO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TOO DANGEROUS -- UNSTABLE ENERGY!

IT'S A LINK TO THEM! LET ME GO!

LET ME GO

ZZZZSSHH

HOW COULD YOU--? GEEZ! SUPERMAN!

SOMEBODY GET AN AMBULANCE!

METROPOLICE

SUPERMAN? AH, GOOD. YOU'RE COMING AROUND.

SUPERMAN, I'M DOCTOR SANCHEZ. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S JIMMY?

HE'S GONE.

HE JUST LEFT?

YES, ONCE HE KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE OKAY.

HE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT HE ONLY DID WHAT *ANY* GOOD CITIZEN WOULD HAVE.

HE HAD THE AMBULANCE DRIVERS BRING YOU *HERE* 'CAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE SUFFERING FROM KRYPTONITE POISONING...

I TREATED YOU HERE A WHILE BACK FOR A GUNSHOT WOUND. THE SLUG I TOOK OUT OF YOU WAS MADE OF *KRYPTONITE!*

YES, I *DO* REMEMBER...

A MENTALLY DISTURBED KILLER CALLING HIMSELF *BLOODSPORT* CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD WITH THAT TRICK.

JIMMY OLSEN SAVED ME *THAT* TIME, TOO.

WELL, DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT CAUSED ME TO PASS OUT IN THE STREET LIKE THAT?

IT WASN'T *QUITE* LIKE KRYPTONITE.

YOU HAD STOPPED BREATHING--YOUR RESPIRATORY TRACT WAS CONSTRICTED--

YOUR BODY WAS COVERED WITH *HIVES*--

I'D SAY YOU WERE STRICKEN WITH A *SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION* THAT NEARLY KILLED YOU!

"WITH THAT INVULNERABILITY OF YOURS, OUR EQUIPMENT DIDN'T DO MUCH GOOD...

"THEN, I REMEMBERED THE KRYPTONITE FROM THOSE BULLETS!

"I GOT IT FROM THE STORAGE CHAMBER IN THE ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT, WHERE IT'D BEEN KEPT SINCE THE INCIDENT...

"...AND THEN EXPOSED YOU TO A SMALL DOSE OF ITS RADIATION, WEAKENING YOU ENOUGH FOR OUR EQUIPMENT TO HAVE AN EFFECT!

"BUT BEFORE WE COULD DO ANYTHING..."

...YOU CAME OUT OF IT ALL BY YOURSELF!

THE SWELLING WAS GONE, YOU WERE BREATHING AGAIN--

--IT WAS MIRACULOUS THAT SOMETHING SO DEADLY TO YOU COULD COUNTERACT YOUR ALLERGIC SYMPTOMS!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

WITHOUT THE *LUXURY* OF BEING ABLE TO EXAMINE THE CREATURE YOU FOUGHT WITH, OUR OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.

IF HE *RETURNS*, I'D LET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HANDLE HIM IF I WERE YOU.

OH, AND WOULD YOU *PLEASE* TAKE THIS KRYPTONITE, BEFORE IT FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS?

DOCTOR, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN EVER DO FOR YOU--

THERE *IS* SOMETHING...

THE CHILDREN'S *CANCER WARD* COULD STAND A VISIT FROM METROPOLIS'S GREATEST HERO!

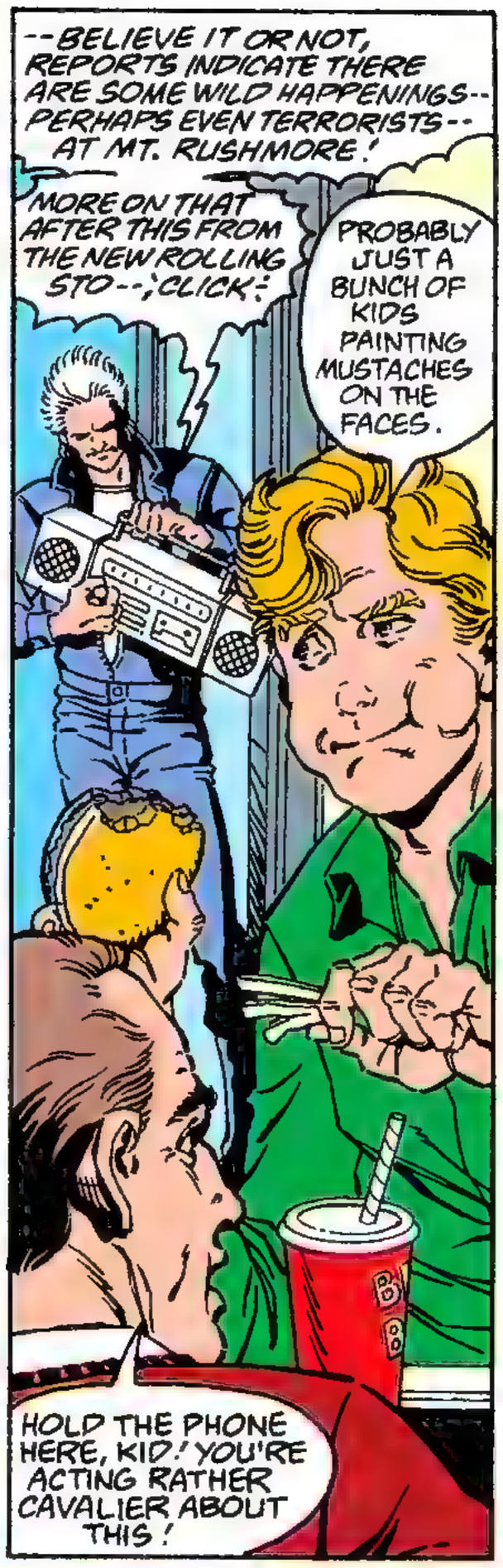
I'D BE HAPPY TO.

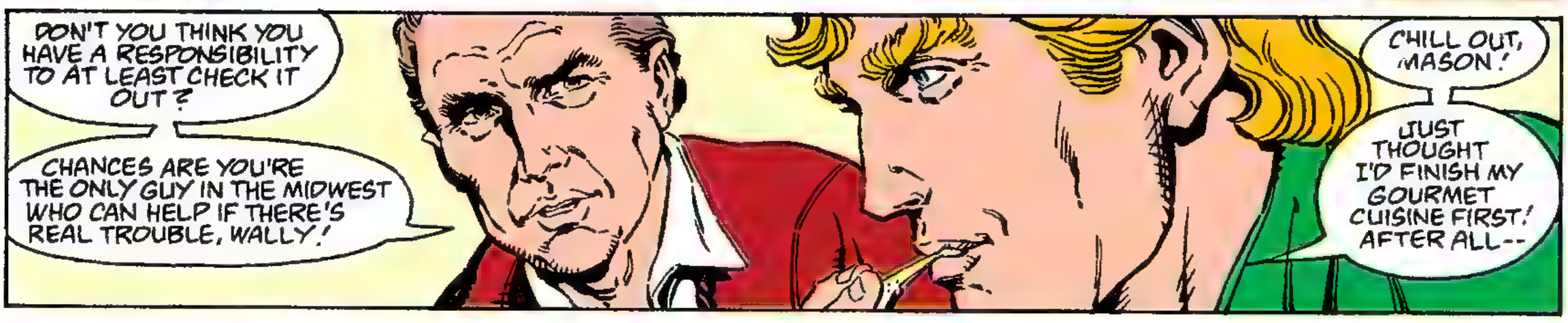
NEXT WEEK *in* *ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN* #463: THE RETURN OF MR. MXYZPTLK, AND DON'T FORGET ACTION COMICS #650 JUNIOR! THEN COME BACK HERE FOR THE TEAM-UP NO ONE DEMANDED-- FROM THE PAGES OF L.E.G.I.O.N.'89/'90

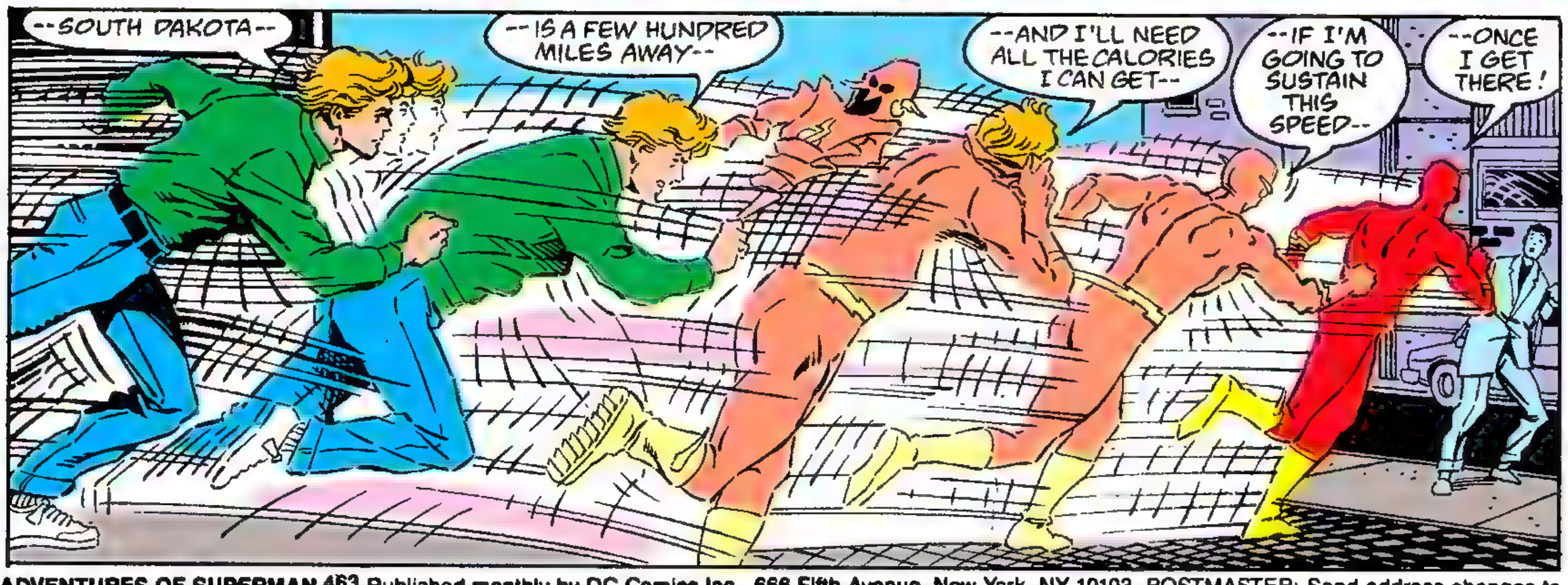
LOBO meets BIBBO!

BIG BELLY
YOU KNOW, WALLY, WITH ALL THE MONEY YOU SPEND ON BIG BELLY BURGERS THEY SHOULD PUT YOU IN A COMMERCIAL!
MASON, I'VE DROPPED SO MUCH MONEY AT THESE JOINTS--
--I PROBABLY OWN A FEW OF THEM!

I'LL BET YOU'RE THE ONLY SUPER-HERO ALIVE WHOSE POWER ACTUALLY COSTS MONEY!
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
IF I DIDN'T GET TO CHOW AT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE EMBASSY A COUPLE TIMES A WEEK--
-- MY FOOD BUDGET WOULD RIVAL THE NATIONAL DEBT!
BIG BELLY SPECIAL
HEY, THIS JUST IN, KZAP LISTENERS--


--BELIEVE IT OR NOT, REPORTS INDICATE THERE ARE SOME WILD HAPPENINGS-- PERHAPS EVEN TERRORISTS-- AT MT. RUSHMORE!
MORE ON THAT AFTER THIS FROM THE NEW ROLLING STO--;CLICK:
PROBABLY JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS PAINTING MUSTACHES ON THE FACES.
HOLD THE PHONE HERE, KID! YOU'RE ACTING RATHER CAVALIER ABOUT THIS!


DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO AT LEAST CHECK IT OUT?
CHANCES ARE YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY IN THE MIDWEST WHO CAN HELP IF THERE'S REAL TROUBLE, WALLY!
CHILL OUT, MASON!
JUST THOUGHT I'D FINISH MY GOURMET CUISINE FIRST! AFTER ALL--


--SOUTH DAKOTA--
--IS A FEW HUNDRED MILES AWAY--
--AND I'LL NEED ALL THE CALORIES I CAN GET--
--IF I'M GOING TO SUSTAIN THIS SPEED--
--ONCE I GET THERE!

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G-542B

LESSEE... KEYSTONE CITY TO MT. RUSHMORE... SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS AT THIS SPEED!

COLD OUT HERE. GOOD THING THE AURA THAT PROTECTS ME FROM MY SPEED'S FRICTION WILL HELP AGAINST THE COLD.

WHOA! TERRAIN'S GETTING PRETTY ROUGH AND SLIPPERY. AT LEAST I'M ALMOST THERE.

WILD! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED TO FIND HERE --

SPEED KILLS!

-- BUT IT SURE WASN'T THIS!

LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE LOTTA POSTCARDS JUST BECAME OBSOLETE!

HEE HEE HEE! QUITE AN IMPROVEMENT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, RED?

HEY... ALMOST DIDN'T SEE THIS LITTLE FLOATING MAN...

LITTLE FLOATING--?!

LOOK, PAL-- UNLESS YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT OF OZ, I DOUBT YOUR MUG BELONGS UP THERE!

DAN JURGENS - STORY AND PENCILS
ART THIBERT - FINISHES

ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERS
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORS
JON PETERSON - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

PRESIDENT!? SAYYY, THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA! EH, MAYBE SOMEDAY...

ANYHOO, THE NAME'S MXYZPTLK--MR. TO YOU-- PURVEYOR OF GOOD TIMES AND CONSTANT THRILLS!

WHO'RE YOU?

FLASH. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

I THINK.

FLASH, HUH? SO WHAT DOES A FLASH DO FOR KICKS?

WELL, BESIDES CAVING IN THE SKULLS OF PEOPLE WHO DESECRATE NATIONAL MONUMENTS I RUN FAST.

REAL FAST.

NO KIDDING?! FASTER THAN, SAY... SUPERMAN?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE EVER RUN A RACE OR ANYTHING!

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I WANT SOME ANSWERS!

A RACE?! SAYYY...

PLAY ALONG WITH ME, RED, AND I'LL MAKE YOU A STAR!

LOOK, I DON'T WANNA BE A STAR! I JUST WANT YOUR FACE OFF THAT MOUNTAIN!

GOOD, I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY! NEXT STOP--

--METROPOLIS.

HEY, I DON'T WANT TO...

POOF

METROPOLIS.

AW, C'MON, CHIEF! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

SIMPLY PUT, AN INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING, WELL-ROUNDED NEWS MAGAZINE THAT BEATS THE COMPETITION.

NEWSTIME IS A GOOD, SOLID MAGAZINE BUT IT'S IN A *RUT*!

COLLIN THORNTON BROUGHT ME OVER TO GIVE *NEWSTIME* A DYNAMIC NEW LOOK AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM!

THERE'S SOME PRETTY STIFF COMPETITION OUT THERE, MR. KENT!

TAKE THESE GUYS -- HARD INFORMATION WITH NO FLAIR OR PERSONALITY! IT'S LIKE READING A TELETYPE!

NEWS

...N... THE MONSTER

NATIONAL NEWS WORLD REPORT

THIS WEEK! INFORMATION

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE HAVE TO BE BETTER!

WHO NEEDS IT? GET CREATIVE! TAKE CHANCES! AND ONE MORE THING--

--DON'T CALL ME *CHIEF*!

YES SIR!

YOU GOT IT!

WE'RE WITH YOU, CH--BOSS!

IMPRESSIVE. NOT ONLY ARE YOU AN EXCELLENT WRITER BUT YOU'RE QUITE THE MANAGER AS WELL! LOOKS LIKE I HIRED THE RIGHT MAN!

THANKS, COLLIN, BUT I DON'T THINK WE'LL REALLY KNOW THAT UNTIL WE GET A FEW ISSUES UNDER OUR BELT!

A'EEEE!

SOMEONE SCREAMING IN THE LOBBY!?

WE BETTER NOT HAVE MICE UP HERE AGAIN!

NEWSTIME

DO WE CALL SECURITY OR AN EXTERMINATOR?

NEITHER! OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS GONE COMPLETELY BONKERS!

YOU GOTTA SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

WHY? OUR COMPUTERS HAVE CERTAINLY CRASHED BEFORE!

I DOUBT THEY EVER CRASHED DUE TO AN INTERDIMENSIONAL OVERLOAD, COLLIN!

I REALIZE THAT YOU JOURNALISTS TRYING TO BEAT A DEADLINE ARE PRETTY FRUSTRATED RIGHT NOW, BUT HANG WITH ME!

MR. MXYZPTLK IS ABOUT TO GIVE YOU THE BIGGEST STORY SINCE EVE MADE THAT DEAL WITH THE SNAKE!

ANNOUNCING THE EVENT OF ALL TIME! A CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS FILLED WITH POWER, SPEED DRAMA, SPEED, EXCITEMENT AND MOST OF ALL--

--TWO REALLY FAST GUYS!

THAT'S THAT MR. WHAT'S-IS-NAME--

WHAT'S THAT IMP BABBLING ABOUT, THIS TIME?

PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW!

OF COURSE I'M TALKING ABOUT A RACE!

A RACE BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND FLASH! THINK ABOUT IT, DREAM ABOUT IT--

--AND CATCH THE START OF IT LIVE IN JUST ONE HOUR AT THE METROPOLIS STADIUM!

COME ONE, COME ALL, ADMISSION IS FREE! HEE HEE HEE!

MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO IGNORE THIS, I CAN'T. IF SUPERMAN DOESN'T MAKE AN APPEARANCE--

--THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MXYZPTLK WOULD DO!

MARA, CALL CARLISLE AND TELL HIM TO GET HIS CAMERA GEAR OVER TO THE STADIUM!

YES, SIR, MR. KENT!

MANAGING EDITORS DO NOT COVER STORIES THEMSELVES, KENT!

YOU HEARD HIM SAY IT WAS THE BIGGEST THING SINCE ORIGINAL SIN... THIS IS IMPORTANT!

HATED TO BRUSH THORNTON OFF LIKE THAT, BUT CLARK KENT HAS TO GET OUT OF THE OFFICE--

--IF SUPERMAN'S GOING TO FLY!

LISTEN, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY! SUPERMAN'S GOT THIS IN THE BAG!

NO WAY, POPS! FLASH BY A MILE!

NO ONE CAN OUTRUN THE BIG "S"!

YOU KIDDIN' ME? FLASH'LL BLOW HIM AWAY!

VS.

METROPOLIS STADIUM

WHO CARES WHO WINS? OUGHTA BE A GOOD SHOW!

HEY, MY BOOKIE CARES PLENTY WHO WINS!

A RACE?!

BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND ME?!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR FREAKING MIND?!

AWW, C'MON, RED! JUST LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE HERE WHO WANNA SEE YOU WIN!

FORGET IT, SHORTY!

I'M NOT SOME STUPID PUPPET THAT'S GONNA JUMP JUST CUZ YOU'RE PULLING THE STRINGS!

IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA WASTE MY TIME RACING SUPERMAN--

--YOU'RE NUTS!

GATE F

:SIGH:

SNAP

HEY!

HEE HEE. NOW, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY ALONG BEFORE I TURN YOU INTO A TURTLE--

--OR SOMETHING SLOWER?

POOF

HOW ABOUT YOU LEAVE INSTEAD?

GET THROWN OUT OF THE FIFTH DIMENSION FOR SMUGGLING WHOOPEE CUSHIONS AGAIN. MXYZPTLK?

AHH, YOU WOUND ME, SOOPEY! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M PRESENTING YOU WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME?

ISN'T THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR SUPERIORITY WORTH A HANDSHAKE?

IS THIS CLOWN REALLY A BUDDY OF YOURS?

THIS CLOWN IS JUST *THAT*-- AND NOTHING MORE.

NOW, IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO THE MAN WHO CAN CLAIM THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE ON HIS RESUME?

ARGUE ALL YOU WANT, SUPESTER, BUT YOU KNOW IF I HANG AROUND EARTH LONG I'M LIKELY TO SET OFF AT LEAST *FOUR* NUCLEAR CONFLICTS.

THAT MEANS YOU SIMPLY *HAVE* TO GET ME TO RETURN TO MY OWN DIMENSION.

AND IF YOU WANT A SHOT AT THAT--

--YOU *GOTTA* DANCE TO THE TUNE I PLAY!

SO WHY NOT BE A SPORT AND RACE SPEEDY GONZALEZ OVER THERE? BEAT HIM--

--AND I'M OUTTA YOUR HAIR FOR ANOTHER NINETY DAYS!

BUT IF YOU'D RATHER I STAAYYED...

OKAY, OKAY. BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WILL BE MUCH OF A CONTEST?

WORD HAS IT THAT WALLY HERE'S NOT QUITE AS FAST AS THE ORIGINAL FLASH, BARRY ALLEN WAS--

--AND EVEN THOUGH WE'VE NEVER RACED I KIND OF JUST ASSUMED...

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

I MEAN, WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, WHAT WE REALLY HAVE HERE IS A RACE BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND *KID* FLASH!

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S *ENOUGH*!

SURE, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE MOUNTAINS AND FLY--

--BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MAKE YOU *FASTER* THAN ME!

I SAY PUT UP OR *SHUT UP*, SUPERMAN!

LOOK, I DIDN'T MEAN TO *INSULT* YOU, FLASH! I JUST ASSUMED I WAS NATURALLY FASTER!

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU SAY WHEN I DUST YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!

LADEEEZ AND GENTLEMEN, THE RACE IS *ON*! HEE HEE *HEE*!

NOT SO FAST, TINY! WHAT DO I GET OUT OF ALL THIS?

BESIDES THE SATISFACTION OF BEATING OLD SUPES YOU GET A PRIZE SELECTED JUST FOR YOU!

A VERY *SPECIAL* PRIZE!

NUTS--WHO CARES ABOUT A *PRIZE*? ALL I KNOW IS THAT IF I BACK OUT OF THIS RACE--

--THE WHOLE WORLD IS GONNA FIGURE ME FOR A WIMPY WEENIE!

HEE HEE--NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR LINE-UP STRAIGHTENED OUT WE CAN START!

GENTLEMEN--

JUST HOPE SUPERMAN DOESN'T WHIP ME *TOO* BAD...

--START YOUR ENGINES!

WHAT'S WITH THE CARPET?

GROUND RULES, FLASHEROO! THIS IS ACTUALLY THE TRACK YOU TWO WILL RUN THE RACE ON!

NOT ONLY WILL IT MARK THE COURSE FOR YOU, BUT IT'LL HELP ENSURE THAT SUPES DOESN'T FLY!

ONCE AROUND THE WORLD, GENTLEMEN! AND STEP ON IT!

ON YOUR MARK--

--GET SET--

B'AM

-- AND GO--

--GO--

--GO!

FLASH

SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE, SUPERMAN!

GO FLASH!

BETTER HURRY, FLASH! I WON'T WAIT LONG FOR YOU!

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS! BUT IF IT GETS MXYZPTLK OFF MY BACK IT'S WORTH THE PRICE!

THAT IMP IS DANGEROUS! THE LAST TIME HE WAS HERE HE TORE UP HALF OF METROPOLIS!

LOOK AT THE GUY! SO POWERFUL-- SO CONFIDENT--

--IT'S PROBABLY NEVER OCCURRED TO HIM THAT HE JUST MIGHT LOSE!

HURRY IT UP, LOIS!

THE RACE HAS ALREADY STARTED!

YOU ARE GOING TO WATCH IT, AREN'T YA?

BE RIGHT THERE, SIS. WHO'S LEADING?

EVEN-STEVEN SO FAR!

OH, I DON'T KNOW, LUCE. I'VE BEEN FEELING SORT OF OUT OF IT ALL WEEK.

I'VE FELT LIKE THIS SINCE CLARK LEFT THE PLANET!

WOW, FOR A SUPERMAN FAN, YOU DON'T SEEM TOO ENTHUSIASTIC!

WOW, LO, I NEVER REALIZED YOU WERE SO HUNG UP ON THE GUY. HE JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR TYPE.

YOU KNOW, HE REALLY IS A PRETTY DECENT GUY! AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS KIND OF HARD ON HIM AT FIRST--

--CLARK *WAS* ALWAYS THERE FOR ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM!

GUESS I WAS A *LITTLE OBSESSED* WITH SUPERMAN AND MY CAREER AND JOSÉ AND *EVERYTHING* TO REALLY NOTICE HIM.

AND NOW HE'S GONE.

"WE'RE HERE LIVE WITH MR. MASON TROLLBRIDGE, WIDELY REGARDED TO BE A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF FLASH'S. WHO DO YOU LIKE IN THE BIG RACE, MASON?"

"WELL, I FIGURE FLASH'S ODDS ARE PRETTY GOOD SO LONG AS WE CAN GET PEOPLE TO HELP US OUT BY GIVING FLASH FOOD ALONG THE COURSE. KIND OF LIKE MARATHON RUNNERS GET, YOU KNOW."

"THANKS, MASON. WE'RE SWITCHING TO A REMOTE SECTION OF NORTH DAKOTA WHERE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE DOING JUST AS MR. TROLLBRIDGE SUGGESTS. REPORTS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SAY THE RUNNERS ARE APPROACHING--"

"--YES... HERE THEY COME AND... WOOOO... THERE THEY GO!"

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE TO EAT, SUPERMAN? YOU'RE EXPENDING ENERGY SAME AS ME!

MY KRYPTONIAN CELLS ABSORB AND BURN THE ENERGY OF THE SUN!

GUESS I JUST "EAT" IN A MORE DIRECT FASHION!

THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT I DON'T NEED ANY FOOD!

GREAT! JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

YA HOO-- NECK AND NECK, EH?

REMEMBER, I'LL BE WATCHING ALL THE WAY! AND IF ANYBODY CHEATS--

--WHAMMO!

IS THAT TWERP FOR REAL?

UNFORTUNATELY...

;SIGH;--THIS IS ALREADY GETTING BORING! MAYBE I SHOULD LIVEN THINGS UP!

SO, MXYZPTLK IS REALLY FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION?

YEAH. HE SHOWS UP EVERY NOW AND THEN LOOKING FOR FUN... BY WAY OF CREATING HAVOC! AND SINCE HIS POWERS DEFY OUR DIMENSIONAL LAWS--

--MY OWN POWERS ARE PRETTY MUCH USELESS AGAINST HIM.

NO WONDER YOU HAVE TO MAKE BARGAINS TO GET RID OF--

YEEOWW!

THIS FREAKY COURSE HAS COME ALIVE--

--LIKE IT'S TRYING TO SHAKE US OFF!

IT'S MXYZPTLK'S WAY OF MAKING THINGS MORE INTERESTING!

WHY ELSE WOULD THE COURSE RUN ALONG THE FLOOR OF THE BERING STRAIT?

I CAN'T RUN UNDERWATER! WHAT'LL I DO?

ONE CHANCE--I'M GONNA TRY RUNNING ON THE SURFACE... LIKE A ROCK SKIPPING THE WAVES!

;UHHH;--- LOSING BALANCE-- LOOK OUT!

NEVER REALLY TRIED RUNNING THIS FAR OR TESTING MY ENDURANCE BEFORE--

--BUT I'M SURE I CAN BEAT FLASH! AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY A HUMAN!

¡OOF!--THE TECHNIQUE MAY NOT LOOK PRETTY BUT IT GOT THE JOB DONE!

HEY, SHOULDN'T YOU BE DISQUALIFIED FOR LEAVING THE COURSE?

WRONGO, SUPES! FLASHEROO'S TOOTSIES NEVER *LEFT GOOD OL'* EARTH--HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH *TERRA INFIRMA* THE WHOLE TIME!

THEREFORE, AS THE COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL REFEREE OF THIS EVENT, I'M NOT GONNA PENALIZE HIM JUST 'CAUSE HE CAN'T MAKE LIKE A FISH WHEN YOU CAN!

AND ACCORDING TO THE RULES, WHICH I'M MAKING UP AS YOU GO ALONG, FROM NOW ON YOU'RE ON *SEPARATE TRACKS!*

JEEZ, THANKS, MIXXY. YOU'RE A REAL PEACH!

BARRY ALWAYS SPOKE SO HIGHLY OF SUPERMAN--MADE HIM OUT TO BE SO POWERFUL THAT I WAS ALMOST INTIMIDATED BY HIM!

BUT WE'RE STILL EVEN UP! MAYBE I REALLY *CAN* WIN THIS THING!

HEE HEE, I MUST ADMIT THAT I DO LOVE DRIVING SUPES NUTSO!

WHOA-HO-HO, WHAT'S THAT? DO MY PEEPERS DECEIVE ME--

--OR DO I SEE SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW?

OUR SATELLITE SENSORS TRACKED THE METEOR TO THIS APPROXIMATE LOCATION, SIR!

EXCELLENT. IF THERE IS ANY *KRYPTONITE* EMBEDDED IN THE METEOR WE'LL EXTRACT IT AND RETREAT.

EVEN SOMEONE OF MY *STATURE* WOULD HAVE TROUBLE EXPLAINING MY PRESENCE TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES!

OLD FRIEND, OLD BUDDY, OLD PAL, IS IT REALLY *YOU*?

YES, YES IT IS! LEX LUTHOR!

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK AND I WOULD GLADLY HAVE GIVEN YOU A RINGSIDE SEAT!

GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU IGNOMINIOUS LITTLE TOAD!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT AND I DON'T CARE! AND IF YOU PLAN TO HARASS ME AS YOU DID BEFORE I'LL KILL YOU!

GADZOOKS! HOW CAN THIS BE?

HOW CAN THE GREAT LEX LUTHOR NOT KNOW OF THE GREAT RACE!?

MY CONCERNS ARE MY OWN, MXYZPTLK. LEAVE US!

NO SIGNS OF ANY KRYPTONITE IN THE AREA, SIR. WE MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE.

KRYPTONITE, HMM? Y'KNOW, LEX, I'D LIKE TO MAKE UP FOR THE TROUBLES I CAUSED YOU IN THE PAST!

I WAS GONNA GIVE THIS SPECIAL PRIZE TO FLASH--

--BUT I THINK MAYBE YOU COULD USE IT MORE.

SNAP

WHATCHA THINK? PEACE? PEACE OF KRYPTONITE?

GOOD THING WE HAVE THESE RADIATION SUITS ON BOSS. IT'S NOT GREEN K, BUT THAT ROCK IS PRETTY RICH!

WRONG COLOR? WELL, IT WAS A GOOD GUESS-- NO?

MXYZPTLK, YOU ARE A FOOL! GET THAT WORTHLESS CHUNK OF POISON OUT OF HERE!

WORTHLESS, HUH?

OH, FUDGE.

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SITE, REYNOLDS!

ONLY SUPERMAN RAISES MY IRE MORE THAN THAT IMP!

LOVE TO JOIN YOU, LEXXY, BUT I'VE GOT A RACE TO GET BACK TO --

"--AND THOSE TWO CHUCKLEHEADS ARE PROBABLY IN THE SOVIET UNION'S URAL MOUNTAIN RANGE, BY NOW."

WHEW-- I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO FEEL A BIT WINDED!

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE SUPER HUMAN POWERS I'M NOT TRAINED AS A RUNNER AND THIS IS MORE PHYSICAL *WORK* THAN FLYING TO THE MOON!

AT LEAST I'VE MOVED OUT FRONT! THE LACK OF AIR AT THIS ALTITUDE IS REALLY HARD ON FLASH!

MAN, LOOK AT BIG-BLUE GO! I GOTTA KEEP BREATHING UP HERE WHILE HE'S STILL GOT A LUNG FULL OF THE GOOD STUFF!

SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT I WAS OUT-CLASSED FROM THE START-- THAT I HAD NO CHANCE!

AMAZING! FLASH IS STARTING TO CLOSE THE GAP DESPITE THE LACK OF OXYGEN!

HAVE TO STAY IN FRONT--NOT JUST TO GET RID OF MXYZPTLK--

AND NOW THE *WHOLE WORLD* IS GONNA SEE ME *LOSE*--

--UNLESS I CAN REALLY POUR IT ON... GET A SECOND WIND AND *PROVE* I DESERVE TO WEAR BARRY'S UNIFORM!

--BUT BECAUSE I'D REALLY HATE TO *LOSE*!

SKRUNNNK

YEOWW! NOW WHAT?

HI, GUYS! I'M BAAAACK!

HEY, PUT ME DOWN! I'M RUNNING YOUR BLASTED RACE--WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

HE'S JUST TRYING TO REMIND US WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS SHOW!

HEE HEE HEE! NOW, THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT!

THINK SO, HUH?

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP TO A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND BLOWS!

CHOKKA CHOKKA CHOKK

KRA-KOW

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALL DAY!

WAY TO GO, S-MAN!

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL KEEP UP-- LET'S DO IT!

PARIS, FRANCE.

STATUS REPORT, METAMORPHO!

SO FAR, SO GOOD, CAP! TWINKLE TOES IS REALLY HANGIN' IN THERE!

GO, FLASH, GO! FOR HONOR-- FOR GLORY--

NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

THE RACE PROCEEDS AS EXPECTED, MR. MIRACLE. THE CONTESTANTS ARE DEPARTING THE SOVIET UNION EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

WAY TO KICK, FLASH! RUN LIKE YOU'VE NEVER RUN BEFORE!

BOOSTER, ARE YOU CRAZY? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHEERING SUPERMAN HERE!

--FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE-- BEAT SUPERMAN!

PERSONALLY, I HOPE SUPERMAN RUNS HIM RIGHT OUT OF THOSE WIMPY, WINGED BOOTS.

WE DON'T WANT SOME REPRESENTATIVE FROM THAT GANG OF SECOND-RATE IMITATORS TO WIN!

GIMME A BREAK, BEETLE! I GOT A THOUSAND BUCKS ON FLASH AT FOUR TO ONE ODDS!

EGYPT.

<DO THEY APPROACH?>

<YES, PRAISE ALLAH! I BELIEVE I SEE THEM.>

<FAH! IT IS MORE LIKELY A SANDSTORM.>

< NO, INFIDEL! IT TRULY IS THE *SPECIAL ONES!* >

THANKS A LOT, FRIEND! I'M TIRED ENOUGH -- WITHOUT THIS FOOD I'D *NEVER* FINISH THE RACE!

EVERY TIME I THINK I HAVE YOU BEAT YOU MANAGE TO BOUNCE BACK!

HEY, IF I COULDN'T DO THAT THEY WOULDN'T CALL ME *FLASH!*

YOU MIGHT WEAR THE CLOTHES BUT YOU'RE NOT THE HUMBLE MAN BARRY WAS!

WHY CAN'T ANY OF YOU OLD GUYS GO FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT MENTIONING HIM?

HE WAS A GOOD MAN, WALLY. YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LIVE UP--

BRKAMM

...*UHN!*... THAT TUNNEL--

--IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION! REALLY SOLID ROCK--!

KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME-- CAN'T BREATHE -- TOO TIRED...

LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CAVE COLLAPSED AND BURIED SUPERMAN!

IF IT TAKES HALF AS LONG AS IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL FOR HIM TO DIG OUT I'VE GOT THIS SUCKER LOCKED UP!

JEEZ, WHAT IF SOMETHING'S REALLY *WRONG*, THOUGH, AND HE CAN'T DIG OUT?

STRONG AS HE IS, HE HIT THAT ROCK HARD AND FAST! EVEN IF HE IS INVULNERABLE -- HE'S BEEN RUNNING FOR A WHILE... PROBABLY PRETTY BEAT TO START WITH.

BESIDES, IF MXYZPTLK RIGGED THAT THING WITH HIS PSEUDO-*MAGIC*, WHO KNOWS *HOW* IT AFFECTED SUPERMAN?

NO CHOICE.

GOTTA GET MOVIN'--

--AND USE MY SPEED--

--ALONG WITH A LITTLE ELBOW GREASE--

--TO DIG DOWN TO THE BOTTOM--

--AND GET HIM OUT OF THERE BEFORE THE SAND FLEAS START CRAWLING UP HIS CAPE!

WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

YEAH--LOOKS LIKE MXYZPTLK IS OUT TO RIG THE RACE!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL AROUND!

HEY, EVERY NOW AND THEN I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I DO A GOOD DEED.

RIGHT. LOOK, YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS, BUT I THINK BARRY WOULD BE PRETTY HAPPY TO SEE YOU IN HIS GEAR.

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU ACCEPT THAT.

UM... YEAH, WELL... WHAT SAY WE GET MOVING--

--AND GET BACK TO THE RACE? I STILL *DO* INTEND TO WIN.

SO DO I.

WHEW--CAN'T BELIEVE THIS *PACE*! NEVER RUN THIS FAST--THIS FAR BEFORE--

--AND WE STILL GOTTA GO THROUGH SPAIN AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC!

EXHAUSTED--LEGS ARE LIKE SPAGHETTI! FLASH IS FASTER--*STRONGER* THAN I THOUGHT!

AND I FEEL LIKE--I MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO *FINISH*!

HOW ABOUT THAT, JAY? LOOKS LIKE OUR YOUNG FELLOW IS DOING US PROUD!

C'MON, WALLY! SHOW LIL'OL' CONNIE HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HER!

WOW, LOIS! THOSE GUYS ARE STILL IN A *DEAD HEAT*!

AND I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT SUPERMAN WAS A *CINCH* TO WIN!

ANY SIGN OF THEM YET, CHIEF?

SHOULDN'T BE LONG, JIMMY!

I HOPE THEY HURRY--I'M *FREEZING* OUT HERE!

BOY, ISN'T THAT SUMTHIN? ALL THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD...

RUN, CLARK, *RUN*!

WONDER HOW LOIS WILL FEEL ABOUT HIM IF FLASH KICKS HIS BUTT?

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! THEY'RE RUNNING AT SEVERAL TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND!

WHERE THE DEVIL IS KENT? THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE YEAR--AND MY MANAGING EDITOR DISAPPEARS!

YIPPEE KIII--YAYYY, GENTLEMEN! YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE HOME STRETCH!

WHO WILL WIN?

WHO WILL LOSE?

STAY TUNED--FILM AT ELEVEN! HEE HEE!

MXYZPTLK--

--SHUT THE HECK UP!

SPLOOSH

STILL HALF THE ATLANTIC TO GO--AND I CAN'T SHAKE HIM!

NEVER THOUGHT I COULD EVEN RUN THIS ;PANT;--FAST! AND I *STILL* CAN'T PASS HIM!

LUNGS BURNING--LEGS ACHING--SO TIRED--;PANT;--I JUST WANT TO DROP!

EXPECTED TO BE ON CRUISE CONTROL BY NOW--BUT I MUST GO FASTER!

CAN'T BELIEVE--PANT--I'M STILL RUNNING NECK AND NECK WITH *SUPERMAN!*

BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT NUTHIN' LEFT--AND HE'S SPEEDING UP!

BLAST IT, SUPERMAN! WHY DON'T YOU *DROP?!*

PACK IT IN, FLASH! GIVE IT UP!

CAN'T YOU SEE I HAVE TO GET RID OF MXYZPTLK?

LIKE TWO NORMAL LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS THEY BOTH HIT "THE WALL" LONG AGO.

EACH BREATH SEARS THEIR LUNGS.

EACH STRIDE IS AGONY.

YET THEY GO EVEN FASTER...

...NEITHER ONE ABLE TO GIVE IN.

CAN'T-- WON'T QUIT--

GOTTA PUSH HARDER!

CAN'T BREATH-- BUT I GOTTA KEEP IT UP AND BEAT THIS GUY!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST, OLSEN! AFTER ALL THIS, THEY'RE TIED!

NO, CHIEF-- LOOK! SOMEONE'S PULLING OUT FRONT! THE WINNER IS--

YES!

I DID IT!

I BEAT SUPERMAN!

FLASH?

FLASH WON?!

CONSARN IT! #@$%:00 FLASH WON!

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE #@$%00!$ HE DID IT, BUT HE WON!

'N' NOW I GOTTA GO HOME! THANKS FER NUTHIN', LUTHOR!

I DON'T GET IT! I LOST!

LAST TIME I WAS HERE LUTHOR *LIED* TO ME-- HE SHOWED ME HOW TO SET UP A *FALSE DEAL!*

AND SINCE I *KNEW* YOU WERE A SHOE-IN TO WIN THE RACE, I WAS ONLY PLANNIN' TO LEAVE IF *FLASH* WON!

I'M A *BAAAD* LIAR!

SOMEHOW YOU SAW THROUGH MY TRICK AND *THREW THE RACE!*

I MUST'VE MISSED SOME SUBTLETY IN LUTHOR'S TECHNIQUE!

SO EVEN THOUGH YOU LOST THE STUPID RACE, SUPERDOPE--

--YOU *WIN* BECAUSE I *HAVE TO* ABIDE BY MY OWN RULES AND *GO!*

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T BE EASY TO LIE TO *MYSELF!*

BUT I'M GOING TO PRACTICE--AND THEN I'LL BE *BACK!*

POOF

#$!@&!!

THANK GOD!

DAMN IT, SUPERMAN--

--YOU *KNEW!* YOU FOLDED AND *LET* ME WIN!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? ;HUFF; I HAD NO *IDEA* WHAT HE WAS UP TO! ;PUFF; I GAVE THAT RACE EVERYTHING I HAD ...AND *MORE!*

YOU WON IT FAIR AND SQUARE, PAL!

I'D SAY YOU'RE PROBABLY THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!

WELL, HOW ABOUT *THAT!*

THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM!

WHAT'S THAT?

THAT LITTLE TWERP LEFT WITHOUT GIVING ME MY *PRIZE!*

END

NEXT WEEK!

ACTION #650 HITS THE STANDS! A 48-PAGE PSEUDO-ANNIVERSARY ISSUE THAT IT TOOK THE WHOLE SUPER-TEAM TO BRING TO YOUR TOWN! AS THE CABBIES IN METROPOLIS ARE WONT TO SAY--"THAT'S 650, JUNIOR!" DON'T MISS IT!

THEN IN SUPERMAN #41 AND ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #464 L.E.G.I.O.N. '90'S LOBO COMES TO METROPOLIS FOR SOME SERIOUS FIGHTIN'!!

THAT'S ALL NEXT MONTH IN THE SUPERMAN LINE OF COMICS!

SUPERMAN
"REFLECTIONS"
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
FIFTY THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH...
〈DO NOT TRIFLE WITH ME! I SEEK TRANSPORT TO A RIM WORLD IN THE 12TH SECTOR, AND I AM WILLING TO PAY WELL!〉
〈ARE YOU OR ARE YOU NOT A PILOT?〉
〈I-I AM... B-BUT I DON'T KNOW THE RIM! K'RAAMDYN IS THE ONLY GOB I KNOW WHO'D EVER HEAD OUT THAT WAY!〉
〈DID I HEAR MY NAME TAKEN IN VAIN?〉
〈...TOO EASY TO PASS UP.〉
ROGER STERN ~ Writer
JERRY ORDWAY & BRETT BREEDING; CURT SWAN & BOB McLEOD, GEORGE PÉREZ, KERRY GAMMILL & ART THIBERT and DAN JURGENS & DENNIS JANKE ~ Illustrators
BILL OAKLEY ~ letterer
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JONATHAN PETERSON associate editor
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G-5330

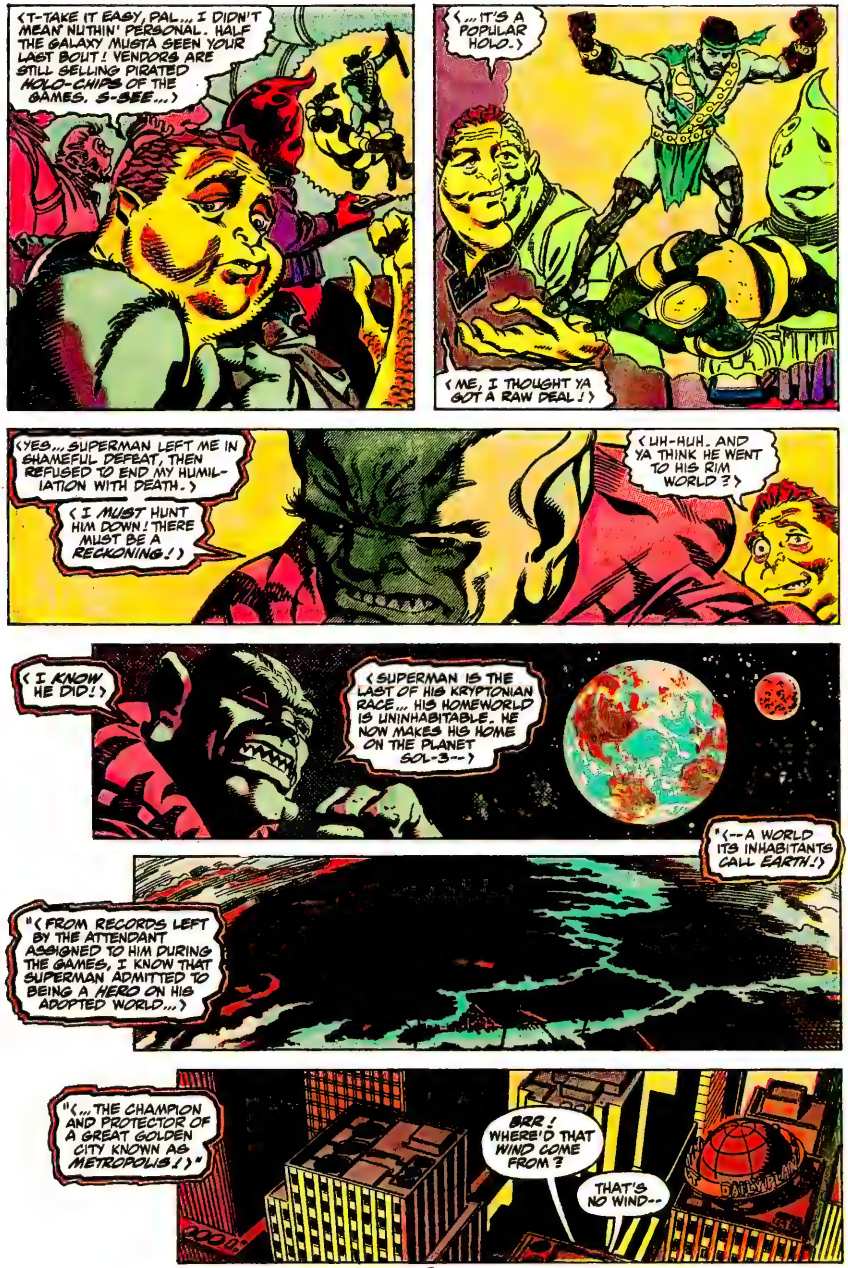
‹'EY, WHO D'YA THINK YOU ARE?›
‹Owright... a FIGHT!›
‹NO! NO FIGHTS-- PLEASE! THE LAST ONE NEARLY BROKE ME!›
‹I SEEK NO BATTLE HERE, ONLY-- EH? HAVE YOU DESIGNS UPON MY POUCH?›
‹M-M-ME? N-NO, I WAS JUST... UH... ABOUT TO WARN YA ...IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS COMING LOOSE!›
‹"NO FIGHTS... NO FIGHTS!" NO FUN 'ROUND HERE ANYMORE!›

‹YOU ARE K'RAAMDYN?›
‹THAT I AM. SIDDOWN. RELAX. CARE FOR A BREW?›

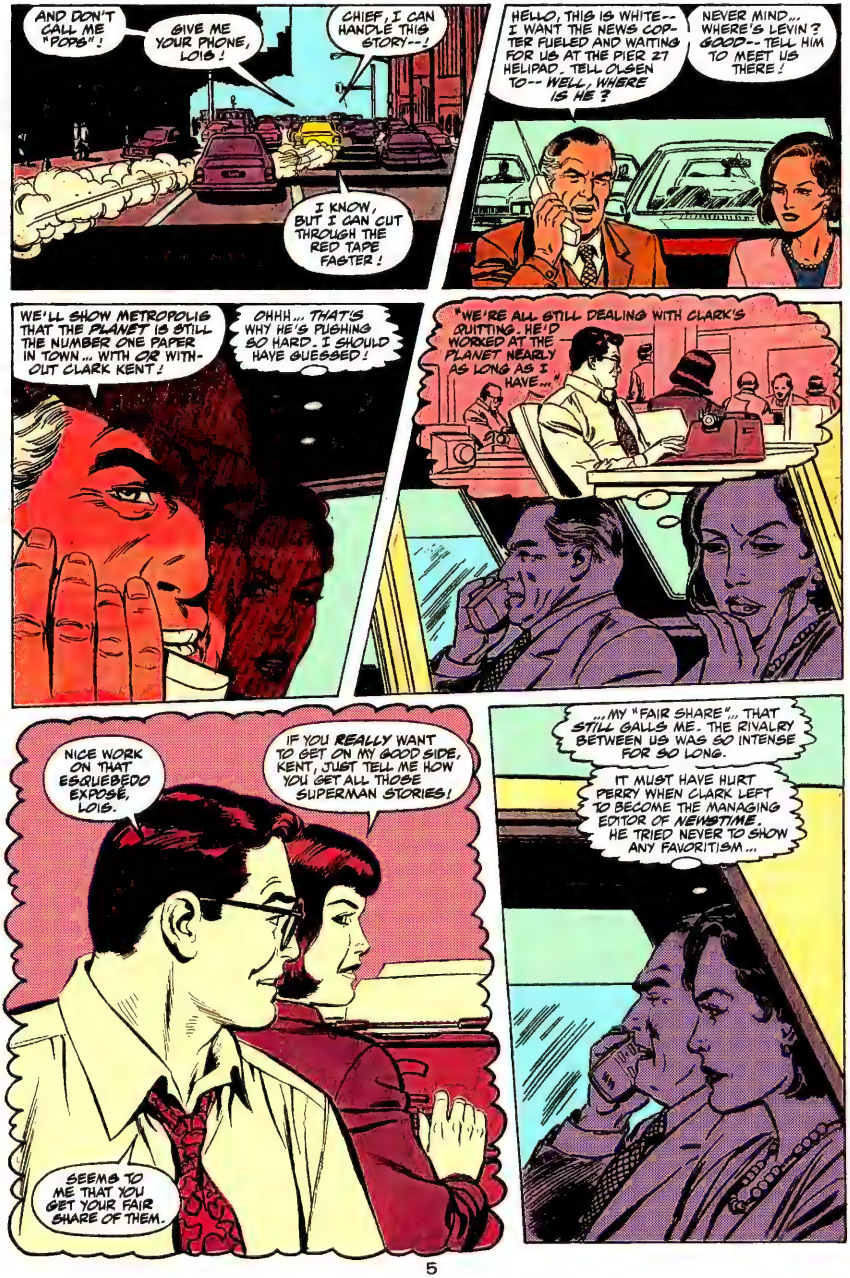
‹NO... THANK YOU. I SEEK PASSAGE TO THE THIRD PLANET OF THE STAR CALLED SOL.›
‹YEAH? THAT'S QUITE A DISTANT ORBIT. WHY D'YA WANNA GO THERE?›

‹THERE IS A DEBT OF HONOR I MUST SEE PAID.›
‹HEY, I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT HIS TAIL WHIPPED IN THE GREAT GAMES... YOU'RE DRAAGA THE LOSER!›
‹OH, NO.›
haha!

‹WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?›
‹HOMINAH... HOMINAH... HOMINAH...›
‹HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW OF MY SHAME?›


‹T-TAKE IT EASY, PAL... I DIDN'T MEAN NUTHIN' PERSONAL. HALF THE GALAXY MUSTA SEEN YOUR LAST BOUT! VENDORS ARE STILL SELLING PIRATED HOLO-CHIPS OF THE GAMES. S-SEE...›
‹...IT'S A POPULAR HOLO.›
‹ME, I THOUGHT YA GOT A RAW DEAL!›
‹YES... SUPERMAN LEFT ME IN SHAMEFUL DEFEAT, THEN REFUSED TO END MY HUMILIATION WITH DEATH.›
‹I MUST HUNT HIM DOWN! THERE MUST BE A RECKONING!›
‹UH-HUH. AND YA THINK HE WENT TO HIS RIM WORLD?›
‹I KNOW HE DID!›
‹SUPERMAN IS THE LAST OF HIS KRYPTONIAN RACE... HIS HOMEWORLD IS UNINHABITABLE. HE NOW MAKES HIS HOME ON THE PLANET SOL-3--›
"‹--A WORLD ITS INHABITANTS CALL EARTH!›
"‹FROM RECORDS LEFT BY THE ATTENDANT ASSIGNED TO HIM DURING THE GAMES, I KNOW THAT SUPERMAN ADMITTED TO BEING A HERO ON HIS ADOPTED WORLD...›
"‹...THE CHAMPION AND PROTECTOR OF A GREAT GOLDEN CITY KNOWN AS METROPOLIS!›"
BRR! WHERE'D THAT WIND COME FROM?
THAT'S NO WIND--
DAILY PLANET
ZOOM!

--IT'S SUPERMAN!
WHOA! WHY'S HE IN SUCH A HURRY? WHAT'S HAPPENED? SOME SORT OF EMERGENCY--?
AW, MAYBE HE'S JUST HEADED TO EUROPE FOR AN EARLY LUNCH...
"--WHO KNOWS?"
GOT IT! THANKS FOR THE TIP!
TAXI!!
AILY
LANET
LOIS? WHAT'S THE RUSH? WHAT'S UP?
TIP FROM AN OLD FRIEND AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION... A MERCHANT SHIP'S COLLIDED WITH A SUBMARINE... JUST OUTSIDE THE HARBOR!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!
SHOVE OVER!
TAKE US TO PIER 27--AND STEP ON IT!
I'LL PAY ANY TICKETS!
PERRY--!
YOU GOT IT, POPS!

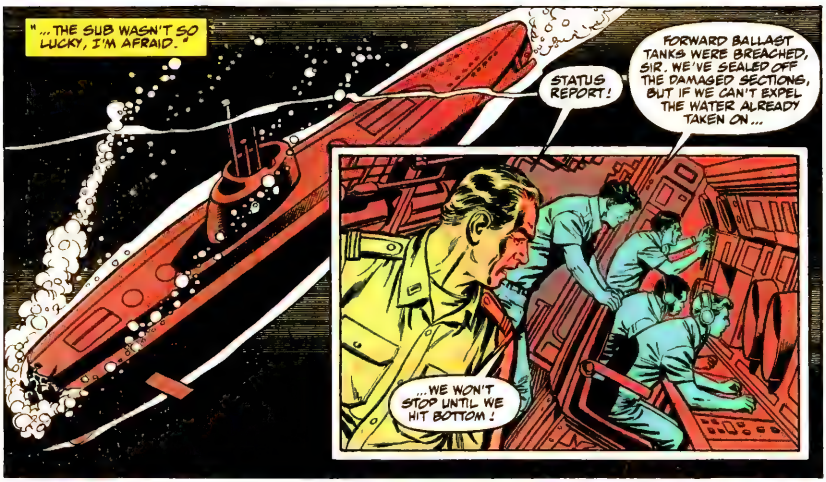

AND DON'T CALL ME "POPS"!
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE, LOIS!
CHIEF, I CAN HANDLE THIS STORY--!
I KNOW, BUT I CAN CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE FASTER!
HELLO, THIS IS WHITE-- I WANT THE NEWS COPTER FUELED AND WAITING FOR US AT THE PIER 27 HELIPAD. TELL OLSEN TO-- WELL, WHERE IS HE?
NEVER MIND... WHERE'S LEVIN? GOOD-- TELL HIM TO MEET US THERE!
WE'LL SHOW METROPOLIS THAT THE PLANET IS STILL THE NUMBER ONE PAPER IN TOWN... WITH OR WITHOUT CLARK KENT!
OHHH... THAT'S WHY HE'S PUSHING SO HARD. I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
"WE'RE ALL STILL DEALING WITH CLARK'S QUITTING. HE'D WORKED AT THE PLANET NEARLY AS LONG AS I HAVE..."
NICE WORK ON THAT ESQUIBEDO EXPOSÉ, LOIS.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GET ON MY GOOD SIDE, KENT, JUST TELL ME HOW YOU GET ALL THOSE SUPERMAN STORIES!
SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU GET YOUR FAIR SHARE OF THEM.
...MY "FAIR SHARE"... THAT STILL GALLS ME. THE RIVALRY BETWEEN US WAS SO INTENSE FOR SO LONG.
IT MUST HAVE HURT PERRY WHEN CLARK LEFT TO BECOME THE MANAGING EDITOR OF NEWSTIME. HE TRIED NEVER TO SHOW ANY FAVORITISM...

"...BUT IN MANY WAYS, CLARK WAS LIKE AN HONORED SON, A REPORTER IN PERRY'S OWN TRADITION."
IF THIS DOESN'T GET YOU A PULITZER, KENT, THERE'S NO JUSTICE!
"HE WAS A GOOD REPORTER RIGHT FROM DAY ONE... BUT HE NEVER FLASHED MUCH EGO. WHEN JIMMY OLSEN WAS STILL A COPY BOY, CLARK TOOK TIME TO GIVE HIM TIPS ON HIS PHOTOGRAPHY.
"EVEN AFTER HIS COLUMN BECAME SYNDICATED, HE PASSED UP A CHANCE FOR A PRIVATE OFFICE TO STAY IN THE CITY ROOM... SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE THAT FAR FROM THE WATER COOLER.
"HE LOVED TO TRADE BAD JOKES WITH THE OTHERS. I NEVER HEARD HIM TELL ONE THAT WAS INSULTING OR OFF-COLOR, THOUGH.
"BENEATH THE SURFACE, HE WAS STILL A KANSAS FARM-BOY, BUT HE NEVER CAME ACROSS AS A HICK... HE WAS JUST SO DARNED SINCERE!
"IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THE DAILY PLANET WITHOUT HIS SMILING FACE. THAT SLY GRIN OF HIS IS...
"...ONE OF A KIND..."
...OR IS IT?
SCREEEEEEEE
WHAT IN THE--?!

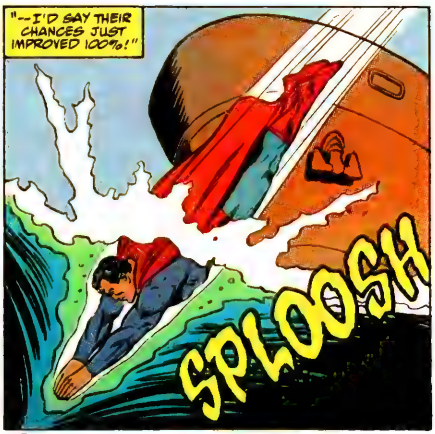
WATCH OUT FOR THAT--!
YOU SAID TO STEP ON IT!
I ALSO WANT TO ARRIVE WITH ALL MY LIMBS ATTACHED, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
FUNNY... CLARK AND SUPERMAN ARE SO DIFFERENT IN THEIR VOICES, AND THE WAY THEY CARRY THEMSELVES...
--BUT THEY DO SHARE CERTAIN LOOKS, CERTAIN MANNERISMS. I SUPPOSE THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HAVING GROWN UP TOGETHER.
I WAS SO SHAKEN WHEN CLARK'S PARENTS TOLD ME THEY RAISED THE TWO OF THEM. WHAT WAS IT LIKE, RAISING A...
...SUPERBOY?
WELL, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T LIKE THAT! THERE NEVER WAS A "SUPERBOY"!
AFTER ALL, I WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM THE NAME SUPERMAN. HE WAS WEARING ORDINARY CLOTHING WHEN WE FIRST MET...
COFFEE
FLOUR
"...THE DAY HE PULLED THE SPACEPLANE CONSTITUTION OUT OF A CRASH-DIVE AT METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL!
"I WAS PART OF NASA'S JOURNALIST-IN-SPACE PROGRAM, REPORTING ON THE SHIP'S FLIGHT. FOR A FEW MINUTES, I THOUGHT I'D FILED MY LAST STORY...
"...AND THEN HE SHOWED UP.

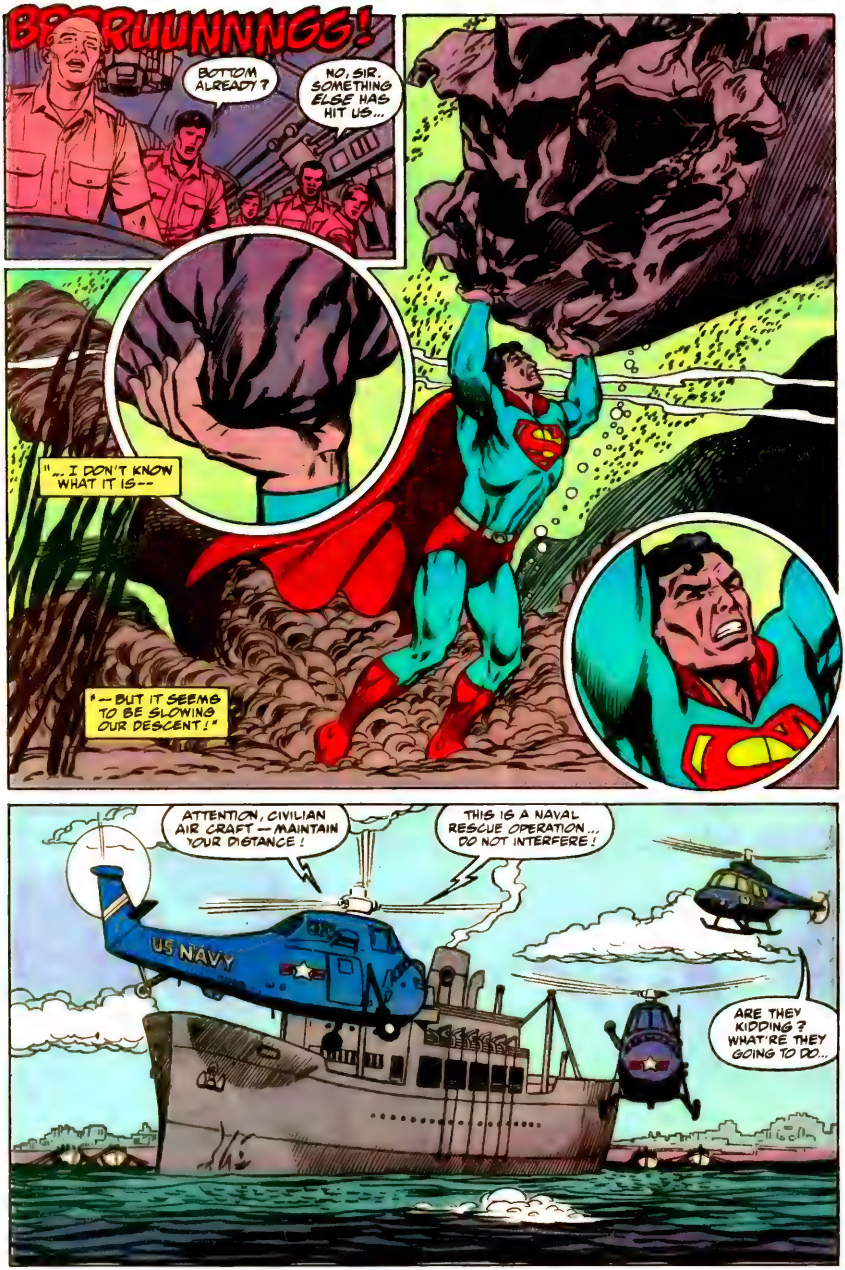
"I KNEW I'D FOUND THE STORY REPORTERS DREAM OF, AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET HIM GET AWAY..."
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BUSTER!!
"HE STOPPED...
"...AND THEN I STOPPED. I DON'T IMPRESS EASILY-- I'D JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM A FLIGHT ON THE EDGE OF SPACE -- BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM. FOR A MOMENT, I COULDN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD..."
"THEN, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, THE MOB CLOSED IN AROUND US. HE BOLTED AWAY, AND I WAS LEFT WITH A STORY ABOUT A MYSTERY MAN... A SUPERMAN!"
DAYS LATER, WHEN HE SHOWED UP IN COSTUME AND CAPE, THAT WAS THE NAME HE ANSWERED TO.
EVERY TIME I THINK BACK TO THAT DAY, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SAID, HOW THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, IF NOT FOR THAT CROWD.
OKAY, FOLKS, HERE WE ARE!
SIX-FIFTY... WITHOUT TIP.
MACELROY, PAY THE MAN!
LEVIN, YOU COME WITH LANE AND ME!
TAXI
LET'S GET THIS BIRD INTO THE AIR--

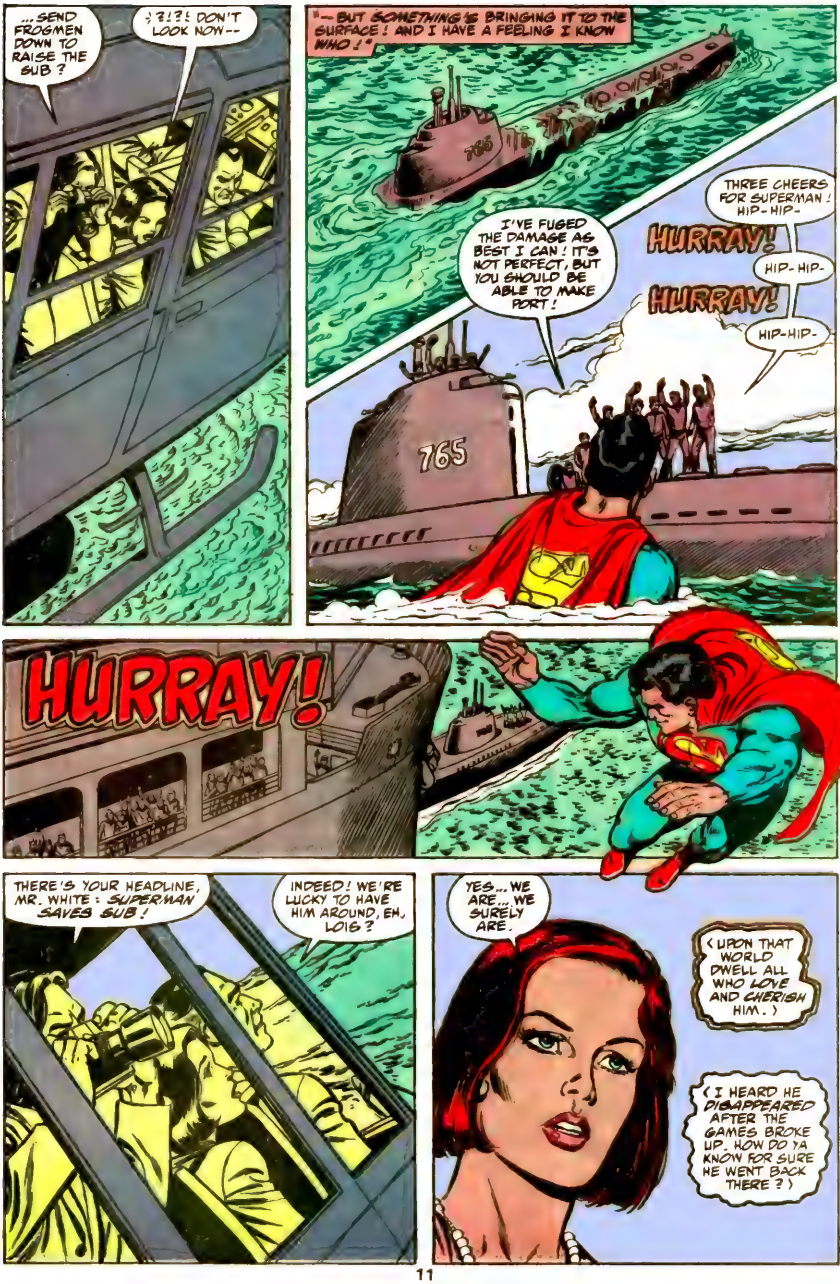
"--THERE'S A STORY WAITING FOR US OUT THERE!"
NO SIGN OF SURVIVORS... THERE ISN'T EVEN MUCH DEBRIS.
YEAH, OUR DAMAGES ARE MOSTLY SUPERFICIAL...


"... THE SUB WASN'T SO LUCKY, I'M AFRAID."
STATUS REPORT!
FORWARD BALLAST TANKS WERE BREACHED, SIR. WE'VE SEALED OFF THE DAMAGED SECTIONS, BUT IF WE CAN'T EXPEL THE WATER ALREADY TAKEN ON...
...WE WON'T STOP UNTIL WE HIT BOTTOM!

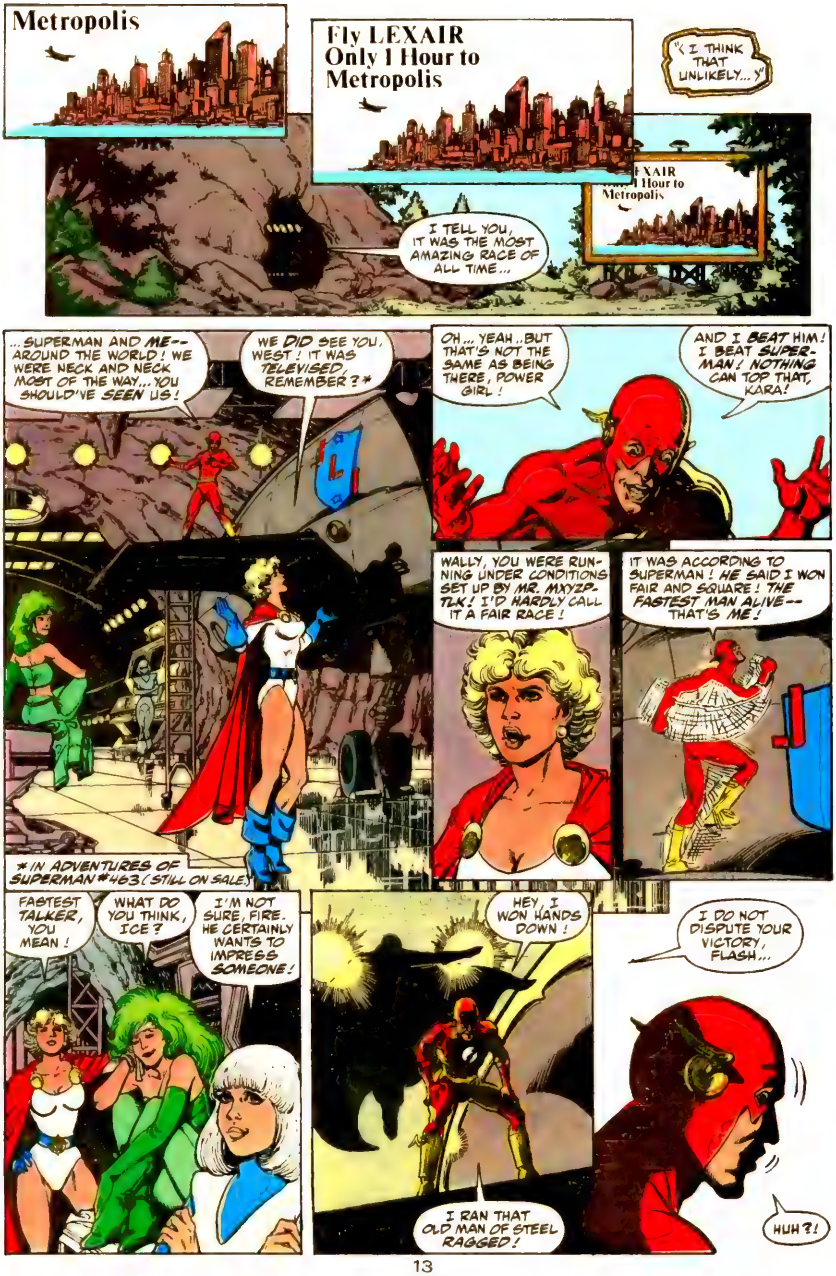
IF ONLY WE'D HAD MORE WARNING... IF ONLY WE'D BEEN GOING MORE SLOWLY--! THERE WAS NO TIME TO AVOID THE COLLISION!
THE WATERS ARE SO DEEP HERE. ALL THOSE MEN... IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF ANY SURVIVE.
MAYBE SO, CAPTAIN, BUT UNLESS MY EYES HAVE GONE FUNNY--


"--I'D SAY THEIR CHANCES JUST IMPROVED 100%!"
SPLOOSH

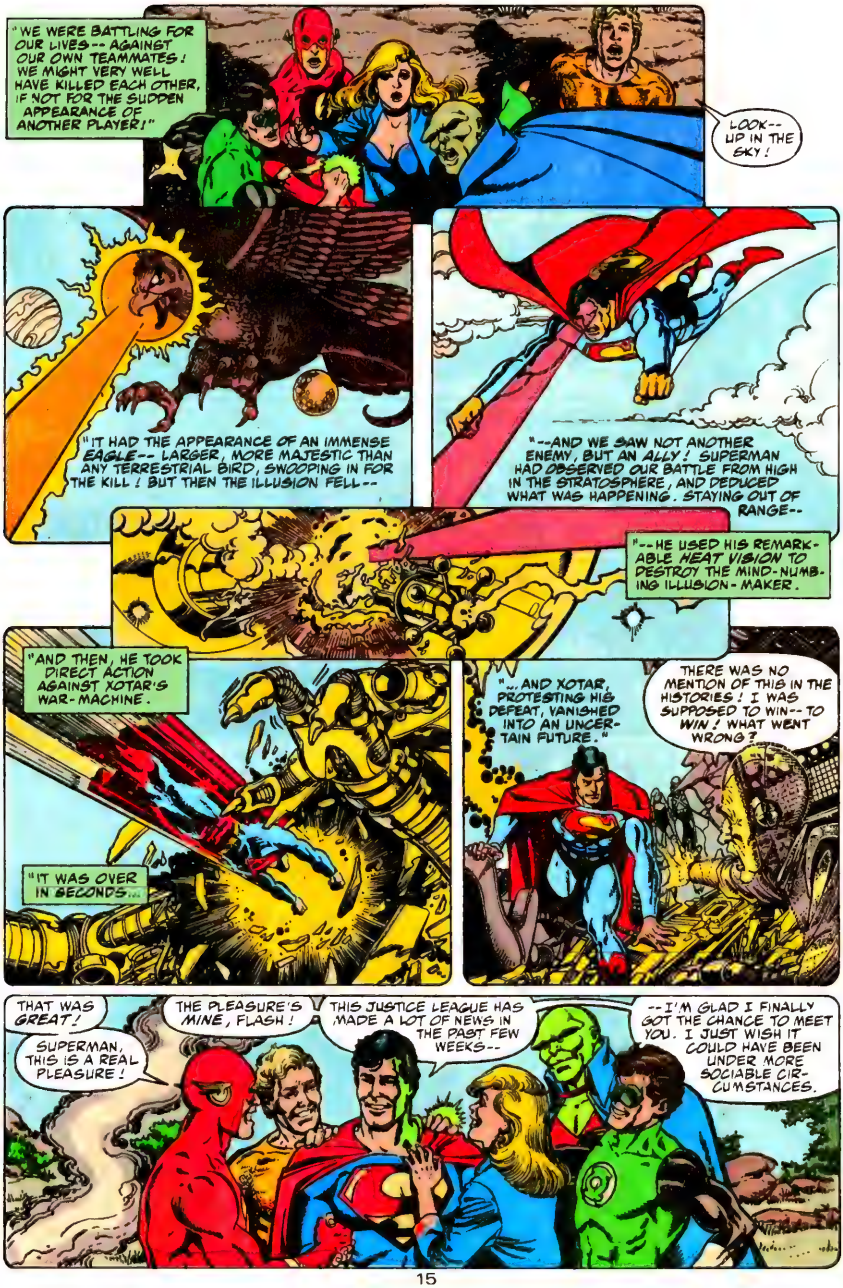

BOOO

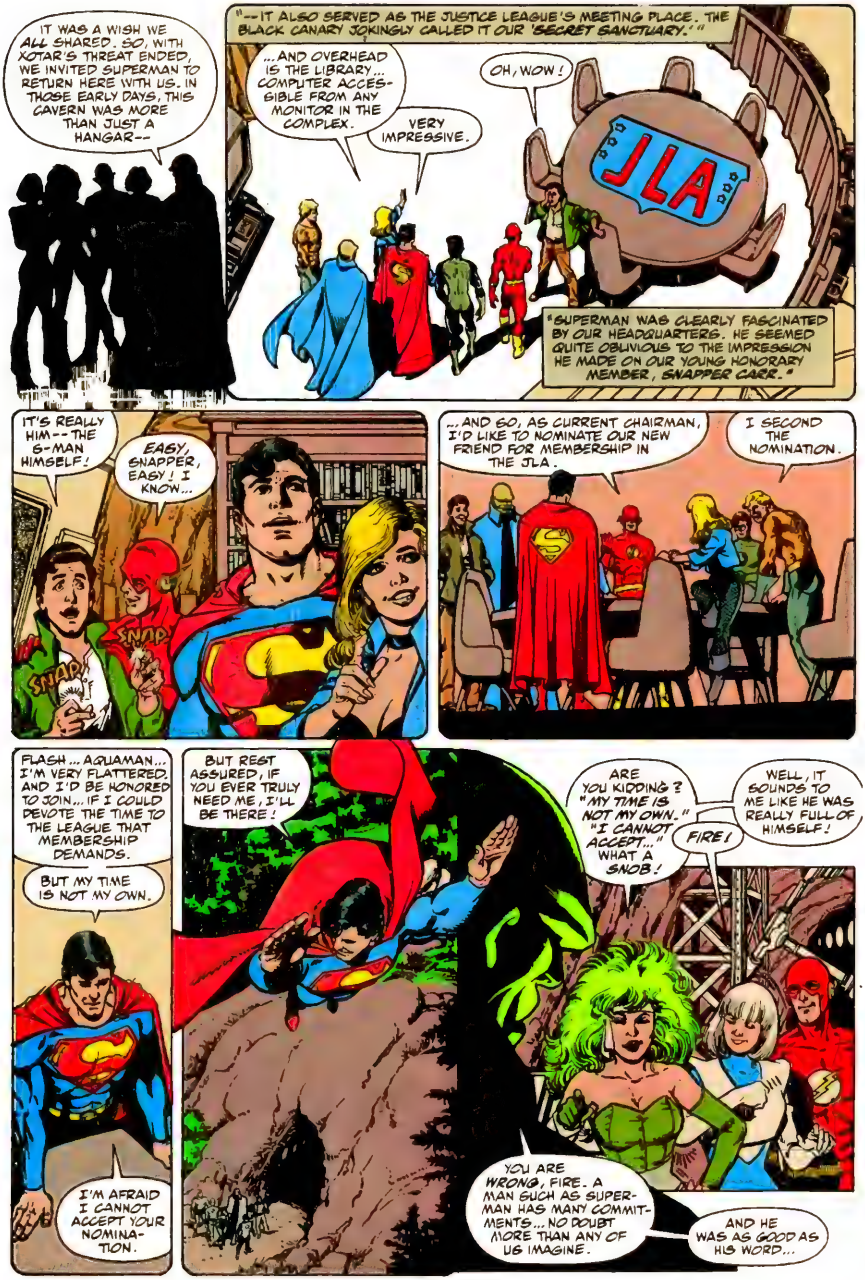

...SEND FROGMEN DOWN TO RAISE THE SUB?
;?!?! DON'T LOOK NOW--
"-- BUT SOMETHING'S BRINGING IT TO THE SURFACE! AND I HAVE A FEELING I KNOW WHO!"
I'VE FUGED THE DAMAGE AS BEST I CAN! IT'S NOT PERFECT, BUT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE PORT!
765
THREE CHEERS FOR SUPERMAN! HIP-HIP-
HURRAY!
HIP-HIP-
HURRAY!
HIP-HIP-
HURRAY!
THERE'S YOUR HEADLINE, MR. WHITE: SUPERMAN SAVES SUB!
INDEED! WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE HIM AROUND, EH, LOIS?
YES... WE ARE... WE SURELY ARE.
(UPON THAT WORLD DWELL ALL WHO LOVE AND CHERISH HIM.)
(I HEARD HE DISAPPEARED AFTER THE GAMES BROKE UP. HOW DO YA KNOW FOR SURE HE WENT BACK THERE?)

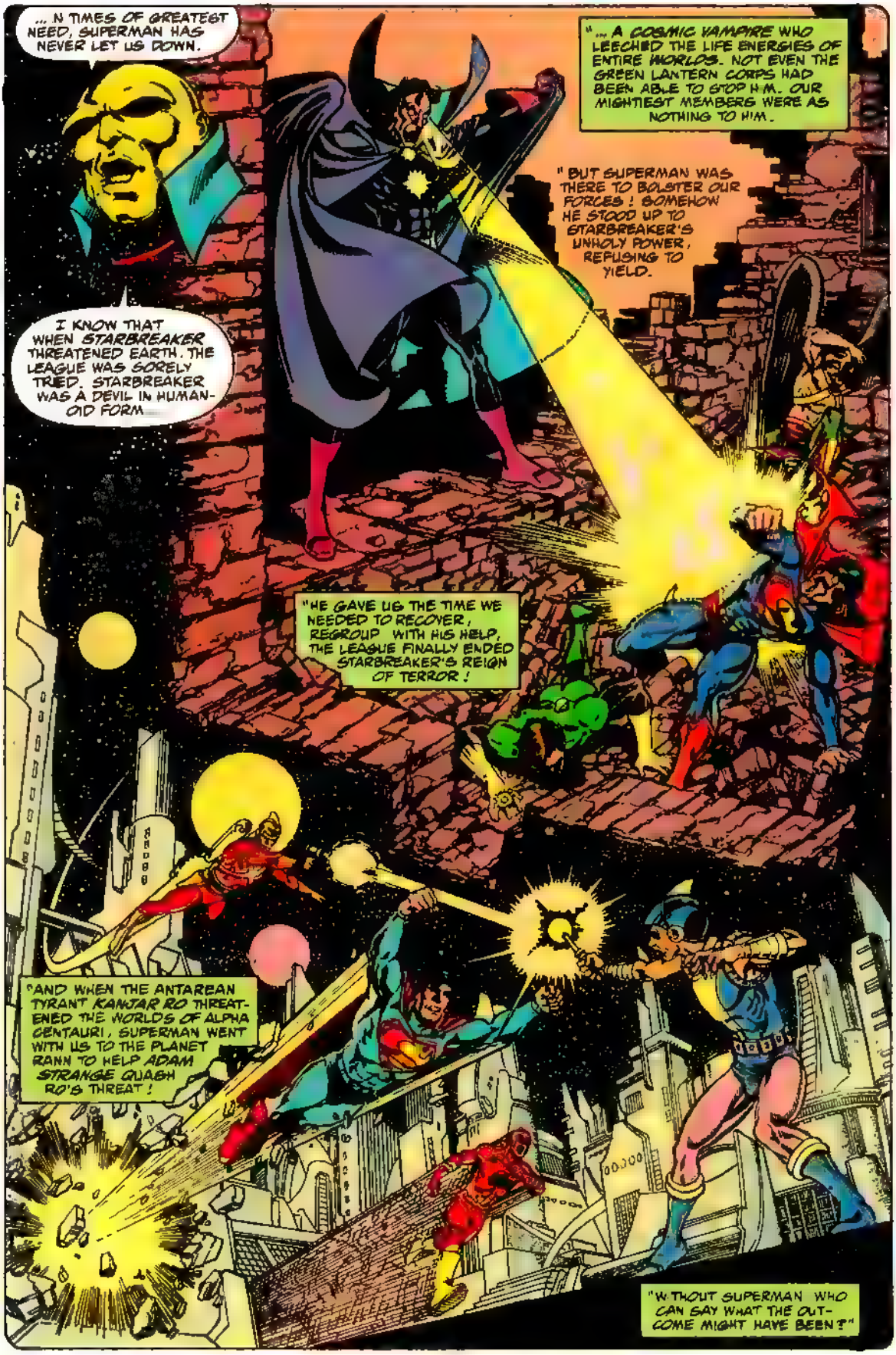
(IN MY TRAVELS I LOCATED AN ARENA CELLKEEPER WHO HAD BEFRIENDED SUPERMAN IN DEFIANCE OF MONGUL. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE KRYPTONIAN HAD RETURNED TO EARTH.)
(I RECOVERED WHAT I COULD OF MY FOE'S RAIMENT. I WEAR IT AS A TOTEM OF THE ONE I MUST OVERCOME.)
(NOW YOU KNOW WHY I MUST JOURNEY TO EARTH. HONOR DEMANDS IT!)
(PARDON ME FOR BUTTIN' IN, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTIN' INTO?)
(WHAT DO YOU MEAN?)
(WHAT HE MEANS IS THERE'S MORE TO EARTH THAN YA REALIZE! FER ONE THING, SUPERMAN AIN'T THE PLANET'S ONLY CHAMPEEN! THE PLACE IS LOADED WIT' SUPER-BEINGS ...METAHUMANS, THEY CALL 'EM.)
(IT MATTERS NOT. MY ARGUMENT IS WITH SUPERMAN ALONE.)
(ENOUGH!)
KRUMP
(I DUNNO... A COUPLA KHUND WARRIORS CAME BY HERE HALF AN ORBIT BACK, AND ACCORDIN' TO THEM, EARTH'S HEROES HAD REPELLED AN ENTIRE INVASION ARMADA! IT COULD BE A RISKY WORLD TO VISIT!)
(YOUR RISKS WILL BE WELL COMPENSATED.)
(UH... IT'S ALSO RUMORED THAT DARKSEID HAS AN INTEREST IN THE EARTH.)
(EVEN IF IT MEANS BRAVING THE WRATH OF DARKSEID HIMSELF, I MUST CONFRONT SUPERMAN ON HIS OWN WORLD!)
(HEY, YA DON'T SUPPOSE ALL OF THOSE EARTH HEROES HANG OUT IN THAT SAME CITY... THAT... WHAT'S IT CALLED?)

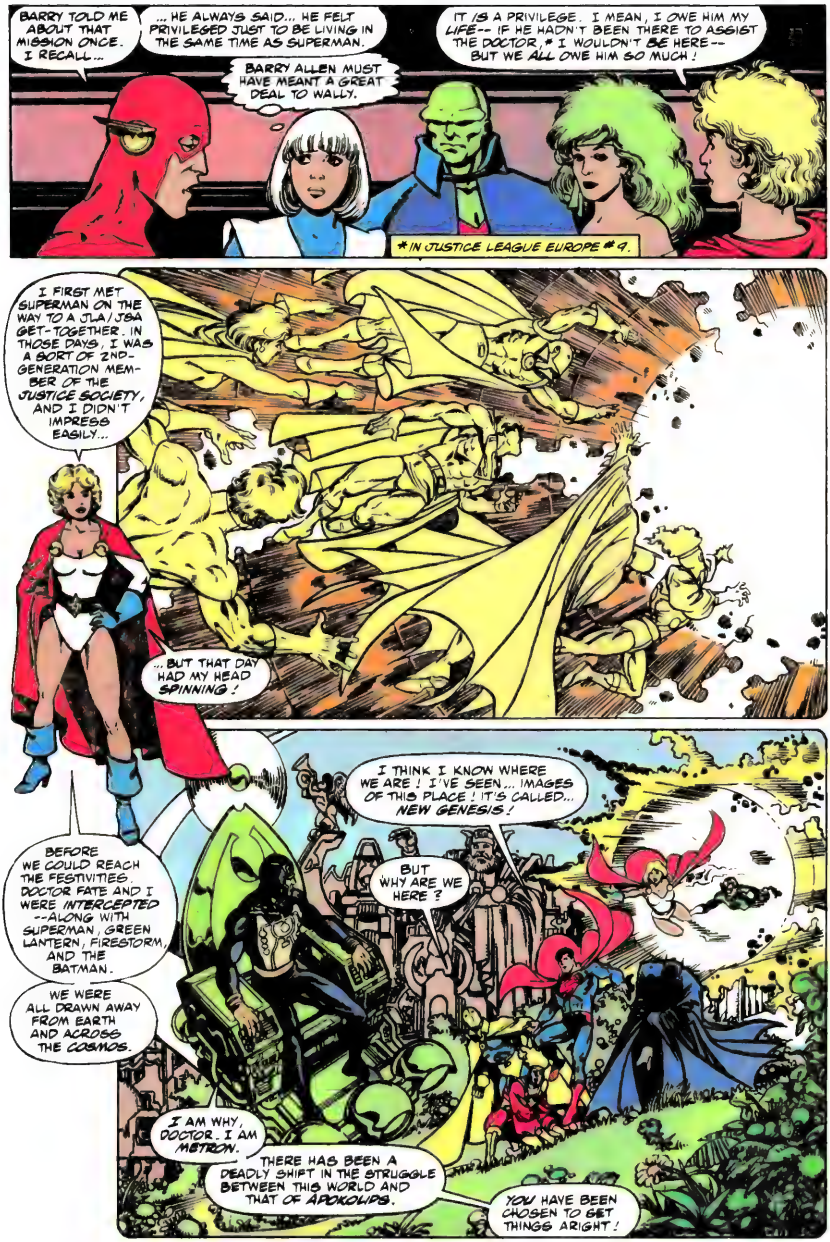

Metropolis
Fly LEXAIR
Only 1 Hour to
Metropolis
"I THINK THAT UNLIKELY..."
I TELL YOU, IT WAS THE MOST AMAZING RACE OF ALL TIME...
...SUPERMAN AND ME--AROUND THE WORLD! WE WERE NECK AND NECK MOST OF THE WAY...YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN US!
WE DID SEE YOU, WEST! IT WAS TELEVISED, REMEMBER?*
OH... YEAH...BUT THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS BEING THERE, POWER GIRL!
AND I BEAT HIM! I BEAT SUPERMAN! NOTHING CAN TOP THAT, KARA!
WALLY, YOU WERE RUNNING UNDER CONDITIONS SET UP BY MR. MXYZPTLK! I'D HARDLY CALL IT A FAIR RACE!
IT WAS ACCORDING TO SUPERMAN! HE SAID I WON FAIR AND SQUARE! THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--THAT'S ME!
*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #463 (STILL ON SALE)
FASTEST TALKER, YOU MEAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ICE?
I'M NOT SURE, FIRE. HE CERTAINLY WANTS TO IMPRESS SOMEONE!
HEY, I WON HANDS DOWN!
I DO NOT DISPUTE YOUR VICTORY, FLASH...
I RAN THAT OLD MAN OF STEEL RAGGED!
HUH?!

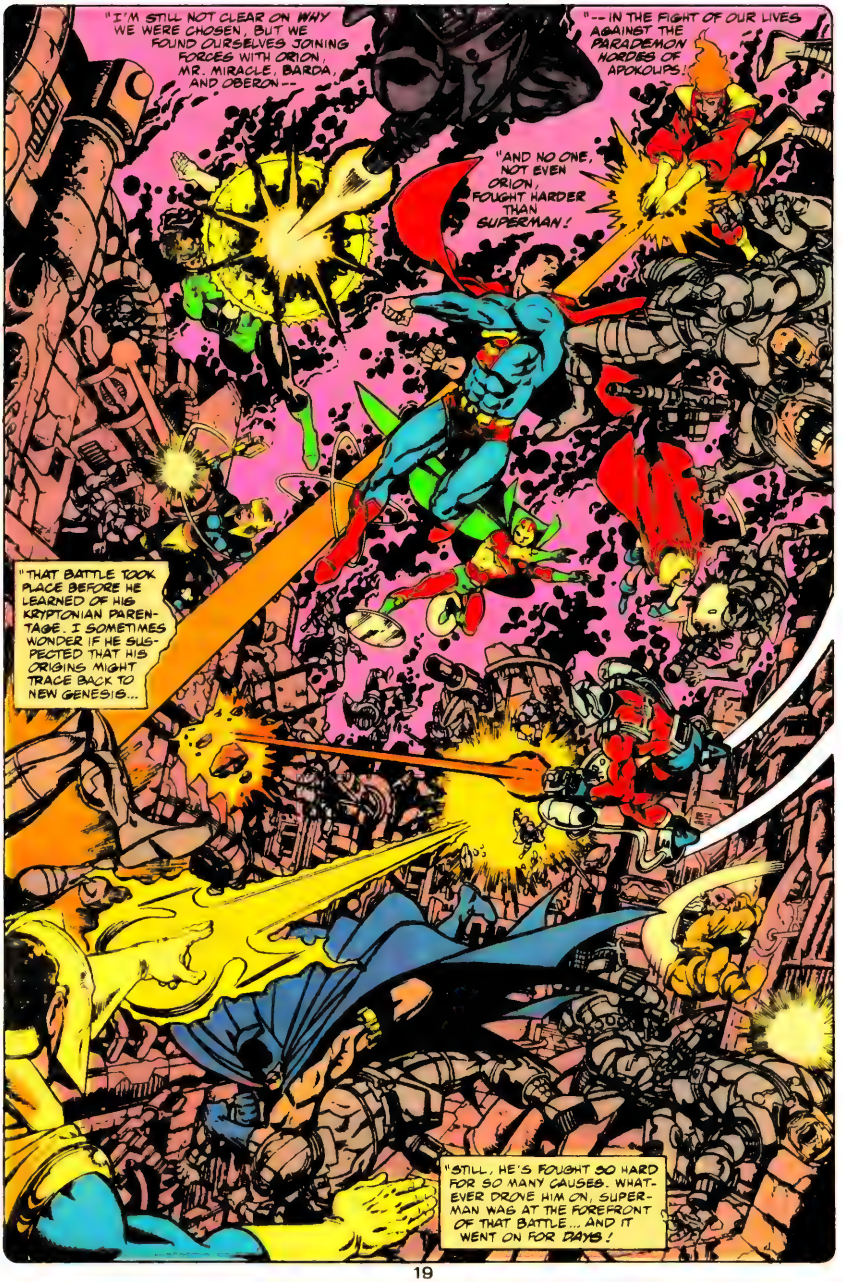
... BUT TO BELITTLE SUPERMAN IN ORDER TO BUILD YOURSELF UP IS UNNECESSARY... AND UNBECOMING A MEMBER OF JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL!
I... I... I'M SORRY, J'ONN.
ONE GUY GARDNER IN OUR ORGANIZATION IS QUITE ENOUGH.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PUT THE MAN DOWN...
...HE IS AN IMPRESSIVE GUY. I'LL ADMIT, EVEN I WAS SURPRISED THAT I BEAT HIM!
BUT I DID BEAT HIM! IS IT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT A LITTLE SUPPORT FROM MY TEAMMATES? AFTER ALL, SUPERMAN NEVER JOINED THE LEAGUE... RIGHT?
PERHAPS NOT OFFICIALLY...
... BUT THE LEAGUE HAS OFTEN BEEN IN HIS DEBT.
"ONE OF HIS DEVICES APPEARED TO TRANSPORT US TO ANOTHER WORLD, WHERE WE WERE ATTACKED BY HOSTILE BEASTS--
"ON ONE OF THE EARLIEST CASES OF THE ORIGINAL JLA, DURING OUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE WEAPONS-MASTER WHO CALLED HIMSELF XOTAR..."
"WILL THIS TAKE LONG, J'ONN?"
"--BUT IT WAS ALL AN ILLUSION, DESIGNED TO SET US AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
"YOU SHOULD APPRECIATE THIS STORY, WEST... IT INVOLVED BARRY ALLEN, YOUR PREDECESSOR AS THE FLASH!
"XOTAR CLAIMED TO COME FROM 10,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, AND HIS WEAPONRY BORE THAT OUT.


"WE WERE BATTLING FOR OUR LIVES-- AGAINST OUR OWN TEAMMATES! WE MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE KILLED EACH OTHER, IF NOT FOR THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF ANOTHER PLAYER!"
LOOK-- UP IN THE SKY!
"IT HAD THE APPEARANCE OF AN IMMENSE EAGLE-- LARGER, MORE MAJESTIC THAN ANY TERRESTRIAL BIRD, SWOOPING IN FOR THE KILL! BUT THEN THE ILLUSION FELL--
"--AND WE SAW NOT ANOTHER ENEMY, BUT AN ALLY! SUPERMAN HAD OBSERVED OUR BATTLE FROM HIGH IN THE STRATOSPHERE, AND DEDUCED WHAT WAS HAPPENING. STAYING OUT OF RANGE--
"--HE USED HIS REMARKABLE HEAT VISION TO DESTROY THE MIND-NUMBING ILLUSION-MAKER.
"AND THEN, HE TOOK DIRECT ACTION AGAINST XOTAR'S WAR-MACHINE.
"IT WAS OVER IN SECONDS...
"...AND XOTAR, PROTESTING HIS DEFEAT, VANISHED INTO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE."
THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THIS IN THE HISTORIES! I WAS SUPPOSED TO WIN-- TO WIN! WHAT WENT WRONG?
THAT WAS GREAT!
SUPERMAN, THIS IS A REAL PLEASURE!
THE PLEASURE'S MINE, FLASH!
THIS JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS MADE A LOT OF NEWS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS--
--I'M GLAD I FINALLY GOT THE CHANCE TO MEET YOU. I JUST WISH IT COULD HAVE BEEN UNDER MORE SOCIABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

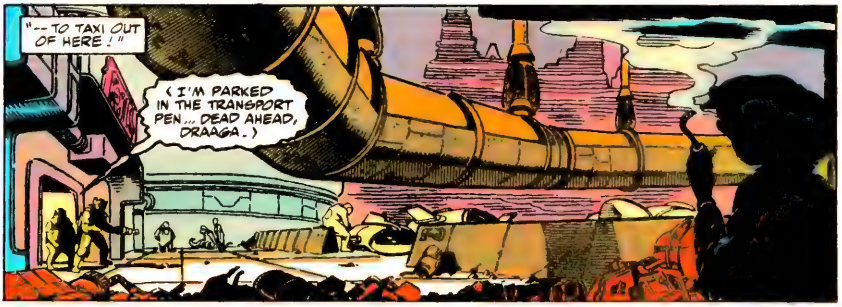

IT WAS A WISH WE ALL SHARED. SO, WITH XOTAR'S THREAT ENDED, WE INVITED SUPERMAN TO RETURN HERE WITH US. IN THOSE EARLY DAYS, THIS CAVERN WAS MORE THAN JUST A HANGAR--
"--IT ALSO SERVED AS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S MEETING PLACE. THE BLACK CANARY JOKINGLY CALLED IT OUR 'SECRET SANCTUARY.'"
...AND OVERHEAD IS THE LIBRARY... COMPUTER ACCESSIBLE FROM ANY MONITOR IN THE COMPLEX.
VERY IMPRESSIVE.
OH, WOW!
JLA
"SUPERMAN WAS CLEARLY FASCINATED BY OUR HEADQUARTERS. HE SEEMED QUITE OBVIOUS TO THE IMPRESSION HE MADE ON OUR YOUNG HONORARY MEMBER, SNAPPER CARR."
IT'S REALLY HIM-- THE S-MAN HIMSELF!
EASY, SNAPPER, EASY! I KNOW...
SNAP
SNAP
...AND SO, AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE OUR NEW FRIEND FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE JLA.
I SECOND THE NOMINATION.
FLASH... AQUAMAN... I'M VERY FLATTERED, AND I'D BE HONORED TO JOIN... IF I COULD DEVOTE THE TIME TO THE LEAGUE THAT MEMBERSHIP DEMANDS.
BUT MY TIME IS NOT MY OWN.
I'M AFRAID I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR NOMINATION.
BUT REST ASSURED, IF YOU EVER TRULY NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE!
ARE YOU KIDDING? "MY TIME IS NOT MY OWN." "I CANNOT ACCEPT..." WHAT A SNOB!
WELL, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE HE WAS REALLY FULL OF HIMSELF!
FIRE!
YOU ARE WRONG, FIRE. A MAN SUCH AS SUPERMAN HAS MANY COMMITMENTS... NO DOUBT MORE THAN ANY OF US IMAGINE.
AND HE WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD...

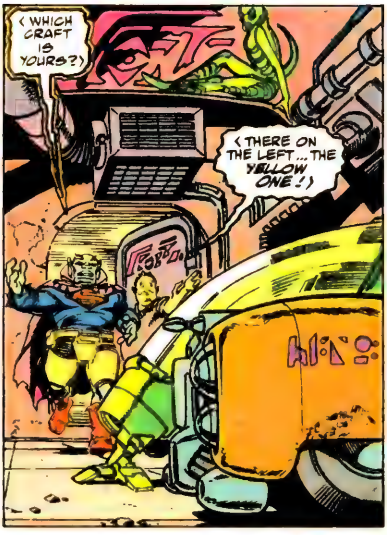

... IN TIMES OF GREATEST NEED, SUPERMAN HAS NEVER LET US DOWN.
I KNOW THAT WHEN STARBREAKER THREATENED EARTH, THE LEAGUE WAS SORELY TRIED. STARBREAKER WAS A DEVIL IN HUMANOID FORM...
"... A COSMIC VAMPIRE WHO LEECHED THE LIFE ENERGIES OF ENTIRE WORLDS. NOT EVEN THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS HAD BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM. OUR MIGHTIEST MEMBERS WERE AS NOTHING TO HIM.
"BUT SUPERMAN WAS THERE TO BOLSTER OUR FORCES! SOMEHOW HE STOOD UP TO STARBREAKER'S UNHOLY POWER, REFUSING TO YIELD.
"HE GAVE US THE TIME WE NEEDED TO RECOVER, REGROUP WITH HIS HELP, THE LEAGUE FINALLY ENDED STARBREAKER'S REIGN OF TERROR!
"AND WHEN THE ANTAREAN TYRANT KANJAR RO THREATENED THE WORLDS OF ALPHA CENTAURI, SUPERMAN WENT WITH US TO THE PLANET RANN TO HELP ADAM STRANGE QUASH RO'S THREAT!
"WITHOUT SUPERMAN WHO CAN SAY WHAT THE OUTCOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN?"


BARRY TOLD ME ABOUT THAT MISSION ONCE. I RECALL...
... HE ALWAYS SAID... HE FELT PRIVILEGED JUST TO BE LIVING IN THE SAME TIME AS SUPERMAN.
BARRY ALLEN MUST HAVE MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO WALLY.
IT *IS* A PRIVILEGE. I MEAN, I OWE HIM MY *LIFE*-- IF HE HADN'T BEEN THERE TO ASSIST THE DOCTOR,* I WOULDN'T *BE* HERE-- BUT WE *ALL* OWE HIM SO MUCH!
*IN JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #9.
I FIRST MET SUPERMAN ON THE WAY TO A JLA/JSA GET-TOGETHER. IN THOSE DAYS, I WAS A SORT OF 2ND-GENERATION MEMBER OF THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY*, AND I DIDN'T IMPRESS EASILY...
...BUT THAT DAY HAD MY HEAD *SPINNING!*
I THINK I KNOW WHERE WE ARE! I'VE SEEN... IMAGES OF THIS PLACE! IT'S CALLED... *NEW GENESIS!*
BUT WHY ARE WE HERE?
BEFORE WE COULD REACH THE FESTIVITIES, DOCTOR FATE AND I WERE *INTERCEPTED* --ALONG WITH SUPERMAN, GREEN LANTERN, FIRESTORM, AND THE BATMAN.
WE WERE ALL DRAWN AWAY FROM EARTH AND ACROSS THE COSMOS.
I AM WHY, DOCTOR. I AM *METRON.*
THERE HAS BEEN A DEADLY SHIFT IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THAT OF *APOKOLIPS.*
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO GET THINGS ARIGHT!

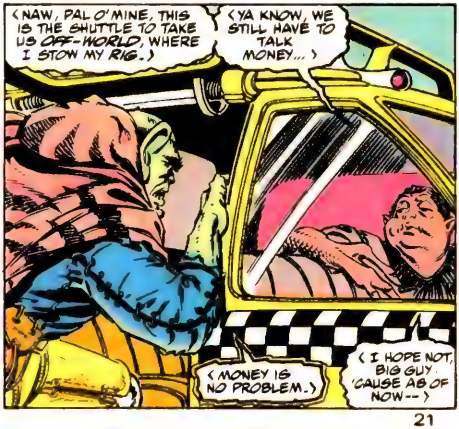

"I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ON WHY WE WERE CHOSEN, BUT WE FOUND OURSELVES JOINING FORCES WITH ORION, MR. MIRACLE, BARDA, AND OBERON--"
"--IN THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES AGAINST THE PARADEMON HORDES OF APOKOLIPS!"
"AND NO ONE, NOT EVEN ORION, FOUGHT HARDER THAN SUPERMAN!"
"THAT BATTLE TOOK PLACE BEFORE HE LEARNED OF HIS KRYPTONIAN PARENTAGE. I SOMETIMES WONDER IF HE SUSPECTED THAT HIS ORIGINS MIGHT TRACE BACK TO NEW GENESIS...
"STILL, HE'S FOUGHT SO HARD FOR SO MANY CAUSES. WHATEVER DROVE HIM ON, SUPERMAN WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THAT BATTLE... AND IT WENT ON FOR DAYS!

* IN THE END, BALANCE WAS RESTORED... BUT APOKOLIPS REMAINED UNDER THE CONTROL OF DARKSEID. DESPITE ALL OUR POWER, WE COULDN'T TRULY DEFEAT HIM."
I'M NOT SURPRISED. WE SPENT JUST A FEW HOURS ON APOKOLIPS, * AND IT SEEMED LIKE DAYS.
YES! COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT YOU NEVER HAD TO FACE DARKSEID, WALLY!
HEY, I'VE FACED SOME PRETTY BIG THREATS TOO, YOU KNOW...
* JLI # 21.
" . WITH THE TITANS. TRIGON WOULD'VE DESTROYED THE EARTH IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR US -- WE STOPPED HIM COLD! MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ON US TO STOP DARKSEID!"
THE TITANS?! YOU MEAN THE TEEN TITANS?!? GIVE ME A BREAK!
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF TRIGON! I BET HE'S A BIG WIMP COMPARED TO DARKSEID!
WIMP?!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING--?!
COULD YOU CONTINUE THIS ON YOUR OWN TIME? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO OVER THE OPERATION OF OUR NEW SHUTTLE... REMEMBER?
UH, YEAH ...RIGHT.
OKAY, J'ONN, LEAD ON...
CHIN UP, FLASH. YOU AND FIRE WOULD NEVER HAVE WORKED OUT AS A COUPLE ANYWAY... YOU'RE TOO MUCH ALIKE.
WAS I THAT OBVIOUS?
UH-HUH.
ALL RIGHT... EVERYONE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION...
AFTER WE REVIEW TAKEOFF PROCEDURE YOU'LL EACH GET A CHANCE--

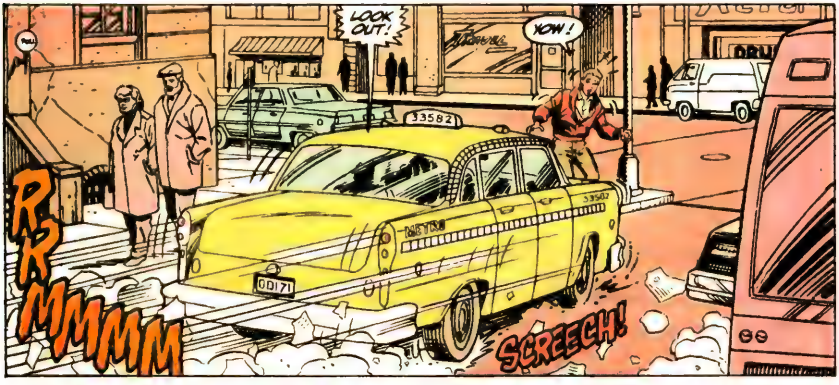

"--TO TAXI OUT OF HERE!"
(I'M PARKED IN THE TRANSPORT PEN... DEAD AHEAD, DRAAGA.)


(WHICH CRAFT IS YOURS?)
(THERE ON THE LEFT... THE YELLOW ONE!)

(ISN'T SHE A DANDY? HAD HER CUSTOM-BUILT-- SHE'S BASED ON SOME DESIGNS I SAW ON AN EARTH BROADCAST TRANSMISSION.)
(THIS... IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE US ALL THE WAY TO EARTH?!)


(NAW, PAL O'MINE, THIS IS THE SHUTTLE TO TAKE US OFF-WORLD, WHERE I STOW MY RIG.)
(YA KNOW, WE STILL HAVE TO TALK MONEY...)
(MONEY IS NO PROBLEM.)
(I HOPE NOT, BIG GUY 'CAUSE AB OF NOW--)

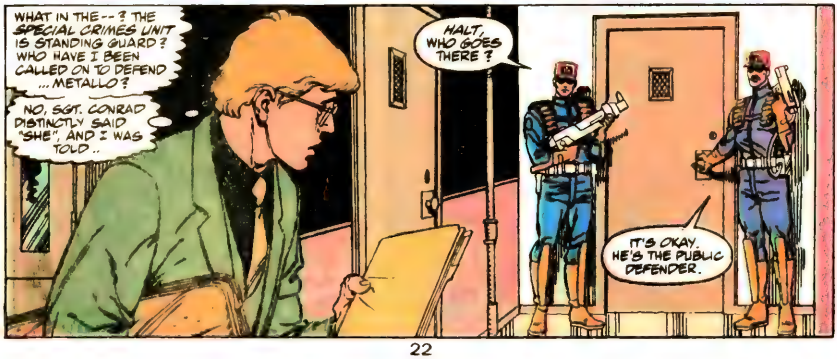
(--THE METER IS RUNNING!)
FRRRMM

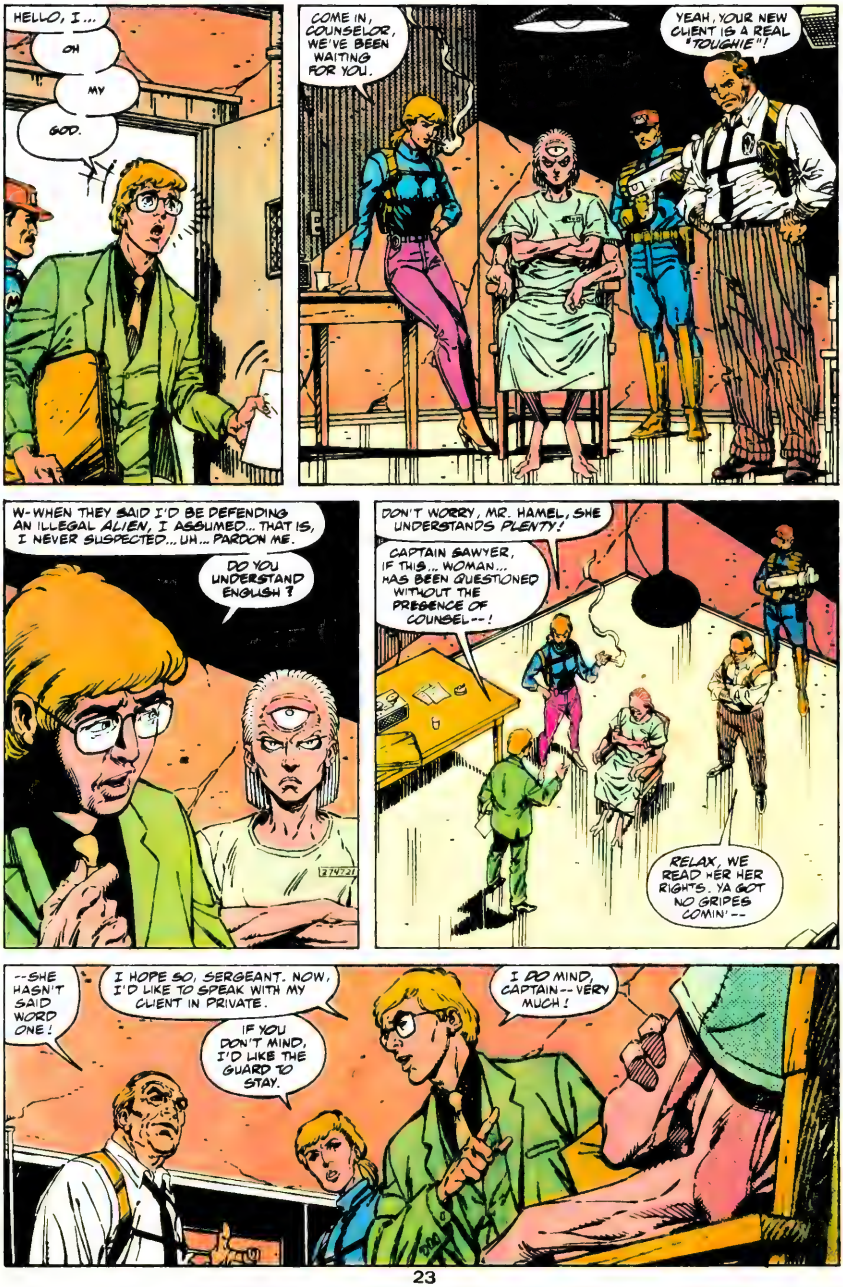

LOOK OUT!
YOW!
RRMMMM
SCREECH!
33582
METRO
GDI71

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? ANOTHER STEP OFF THAT CURB, AND I'D HAVE BEEN --!
GIVE IT A REST, JUNIOR!
THAT'LL BE SIX-FIFTY, BUDDY.

OH, YEAH? WELL, THE METRO TAXI COMMISSION WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS!
PRECINCT
METRO POLICE
METRO

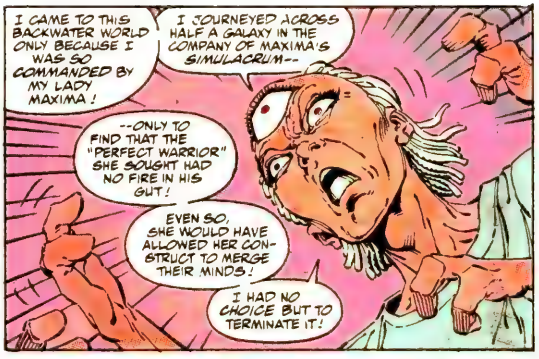
HI, PHIL. IS THAT THE CASE FILE?
YEAH. YOU'VE PULLED A REAL STRANGE ONE THIS TIME, RON. SHE'S DOWNSTAIRS IN INTERROGATION ROOM THREE.


WHAT IN THE --? THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT IS STANDING GUARD? WHO HAVE I BEEN CALLED ON TO DEFEND ...METALLO?
NO, SGT. CONRAD DISTINCTLY SAID "SHE". AND I WAS TOLD..
HALT. WHO GOES THERE?
IT'S OKAY. HE'S THE PUBLIC DEFENDER.


HELLO, I...
OH
MY
GOD.
COME IN, COUNSELOR, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
YEAH, YOUR NEW CLIENT IS A REAL "TOUGHIE"!
W-WHEN THEY SAID I'D BE DEFENDING AN ILLEGAL ALIEN, I ASSUMED... THAT IS, I NEVER SUSPECTED... UH... PARDON ME.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH?
DON'T WORRY, MR. HAMEL, SHE UNDERSTANDS PLENTY!
CAPTAIN SAWYER, IF THIS... WOMAN... HAS BEEN QUESTIONED WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF COUNSEL--!
RELAX, WE READ HER HER RIGHTS. YA GOT NO GRIPES COMIN'--
--SHE HASN'T SAID WORD ONE!
I HOPE SO, SERGEANT. NOW, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MY CLIENT IN PRIVATE.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE THE GUARD TO STAY.
I DO MIND, CAPTAIN--VERY MUCH!

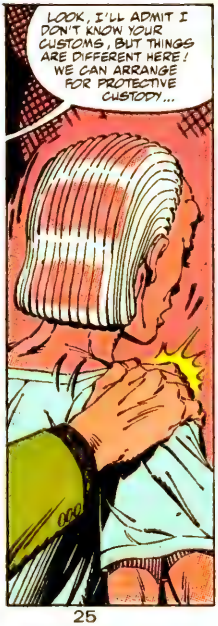
ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT. BUT WE'LL BE WAITING RIGHT OUTSIDE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, MS. --AH-- SAZU? MY NAME IS RONALD HAMEL. YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, BUT I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO DEFEND YOU.
I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE CHARGED WITH SOME VERY SERIOUS OFFENSES...
... INCLUDING OCCUPYING CITY HALL AND HOLDING MAYOR BERKOWITZ HOSTAGE!
"YOU ARE ALSO ACCUSED OF KILLING YOUR ACCOMPLICE, A WOMAN IDENTIFIED ONLY AS MAXIMA, IN THE MIDST OF SOME ALTERCATION.
"HMM... NO BODY LEFT TO EXAMINE."
THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY CASE, SAZU. I'LL NEED YOUR FULL COOPERATION. THERE ARE A SCORE OF REPUTABLE WITNESSES WHO THE PROSECUTOR WILL CALL...
..THE MAYOR, OF COURSE... SUPERMAN..
SUPERMAN!?!
43

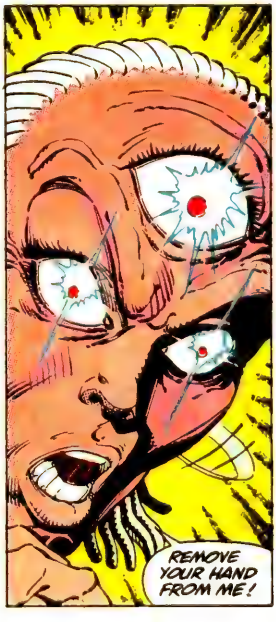
DO NOT MENTION HIS NAME AGAIN IN MY PRESENCE! IT IS BECAUSE OF THAT WEAKLING THAT I'VE FALLEN TO SUCH A STATE!
I--I BEG YOUR PARDON?

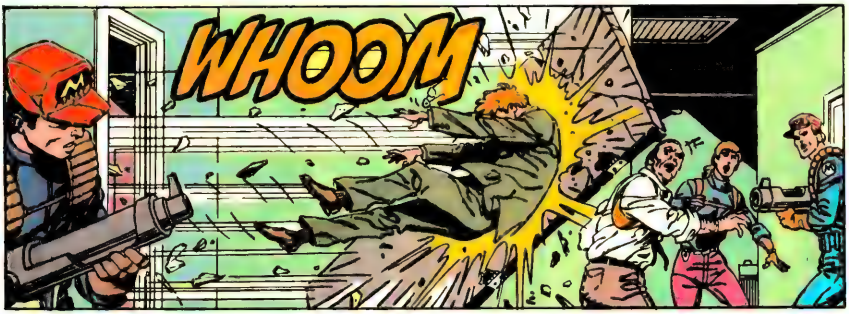

I CAME TO THIS BACKWATER WORLD ONLY BECAUSE I WAS SO COMMANDED BY MY LADY MAXIMA!
I JOURNEYED ACROSS HALF A GALAXY IN THE COMPANY OF MAXIMA'S SIMULACRUM--
--ONLY TO FIND THAT THE "PERFECT WARRIOR" SHE SOUGHT HAD NO FIRE IN HIS GUT!
EVEN SO, SHE WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HER CONSTRUCT TO MERGE THEIR MINDS!
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TERMINATE IT!

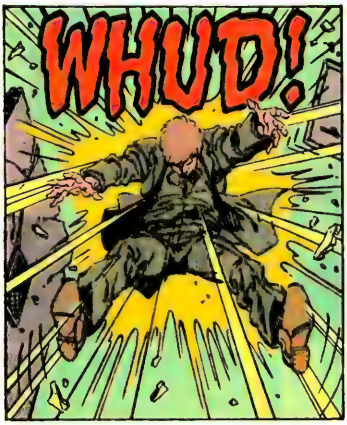
SIMULACRUM? CONSTRUCT? EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE WOMAN WASN'T REALLY ALIVE? THAT SHE WAS... ARTIFICIAL? IF WE CAN PROVE THAT--
--IF WE CAN CONVINCE A JURY THAT YOU WERE BEING USED BY THIS MAXIMA PERSON--WE CAN BEAT THESE CHARGES! I CAN PREPARE A DEFENSE--!

THERE IS NO DEFENSE. MY LIFE IS ALREADY FORFEIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TO DEFY MY LADY MAXIMA IS TO COURT DEATH.
IT MATTERS NOT THAT I BUT CARRIED OUT MY DUTY TO THE ROYAL HOUSE. SHE WILL HUNT ME DOWN.


LOOK, I'LL ADMIT I DON'T KNOW YOUR CUSTOMS, BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT HERE! WE CAN ARRANGE FOR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...

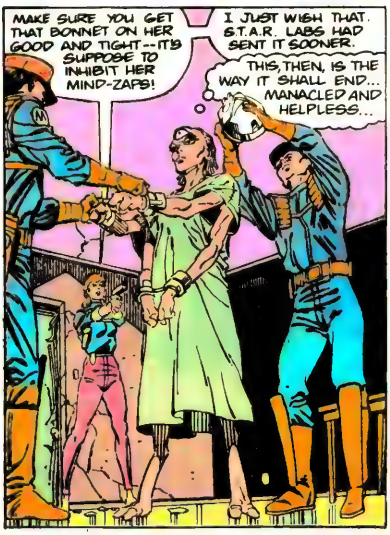

REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM ME!

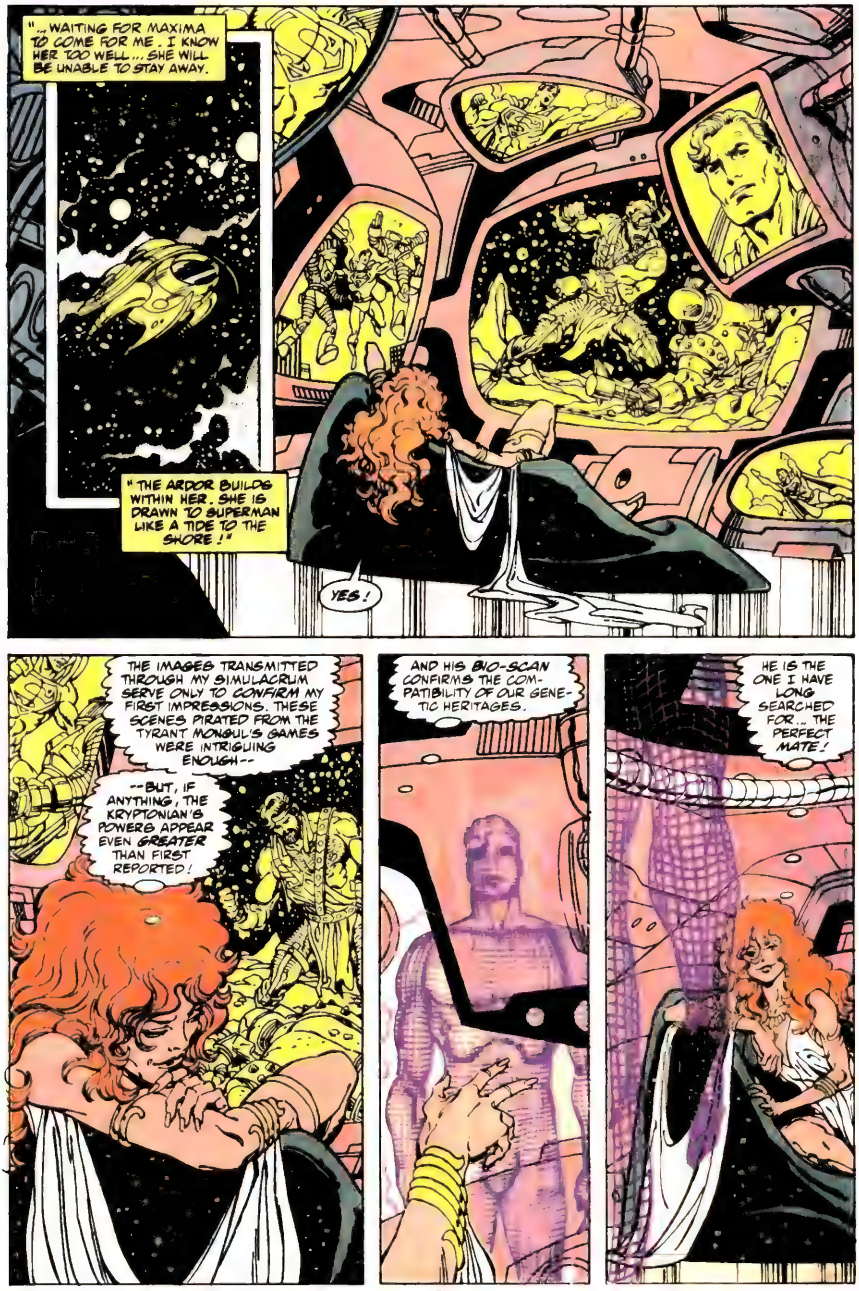

WHOOM

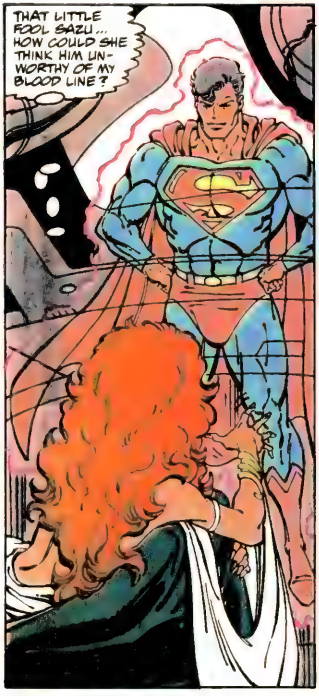

WHUD!

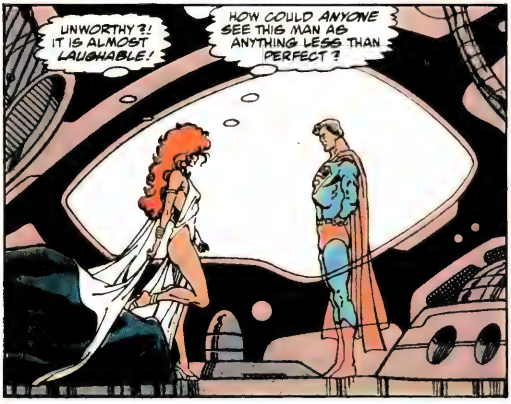
SAFETIES OFF! C'MON, MOVE!

DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING THAT AGAIN!
I RECOGNIZE THE MIGHT OF SUPERIOR NUMBERS, CAPTAIN. THERE IS NO SHAME IN SUCH A SURRENDER.
FORGIVE US IF WE DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES... CUFF HER, BOYS!


MAKE SURE YOU GET THAT BONNET ON HER GOOD AND TIGHT -- IT'S SUPPOSE TO INHIBIT HER MIND-ZAPS!
I JUST WISH THAT S.T.A.R. LABS HAD SENT IT SOONER.
THIS, THEN, IS THE WAY IT SHALL END... MANACLED AND HELPLESS...


"...WAITING FOR MAXIMA TO COME FOR ME. I KNOW HER TOO WELL... SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO STAY AWAY.
"THE ARDOR BUILDS WITHIN HER. SHE IS DRAWN TO SUPERMAN LIKE A TIDE TO THE SHORE!"
YES!
THE IMAGES TRANSMITTED THROUGH MY SIMULACRUM SERVE ONLY TO CONFIRM MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS. THESE SCENES PIRATED FROM THE TYRANT MONGUL'S GAMES WERE INTRIGUING ENOUGH--
--BUT, IF ANYTHING, THE KRYPTONIAN'S POWERS APPEAR EVEN GREATER THAN FIRST REPORTED!
AND HIS BIO-SCAN CONFIRMS THE COMPATIBILITY OF OUR GENETIC HERITAGES.
HE IS THE ONE I HAVE LONG SEARCHED FOR... THE PERFECT MATE!

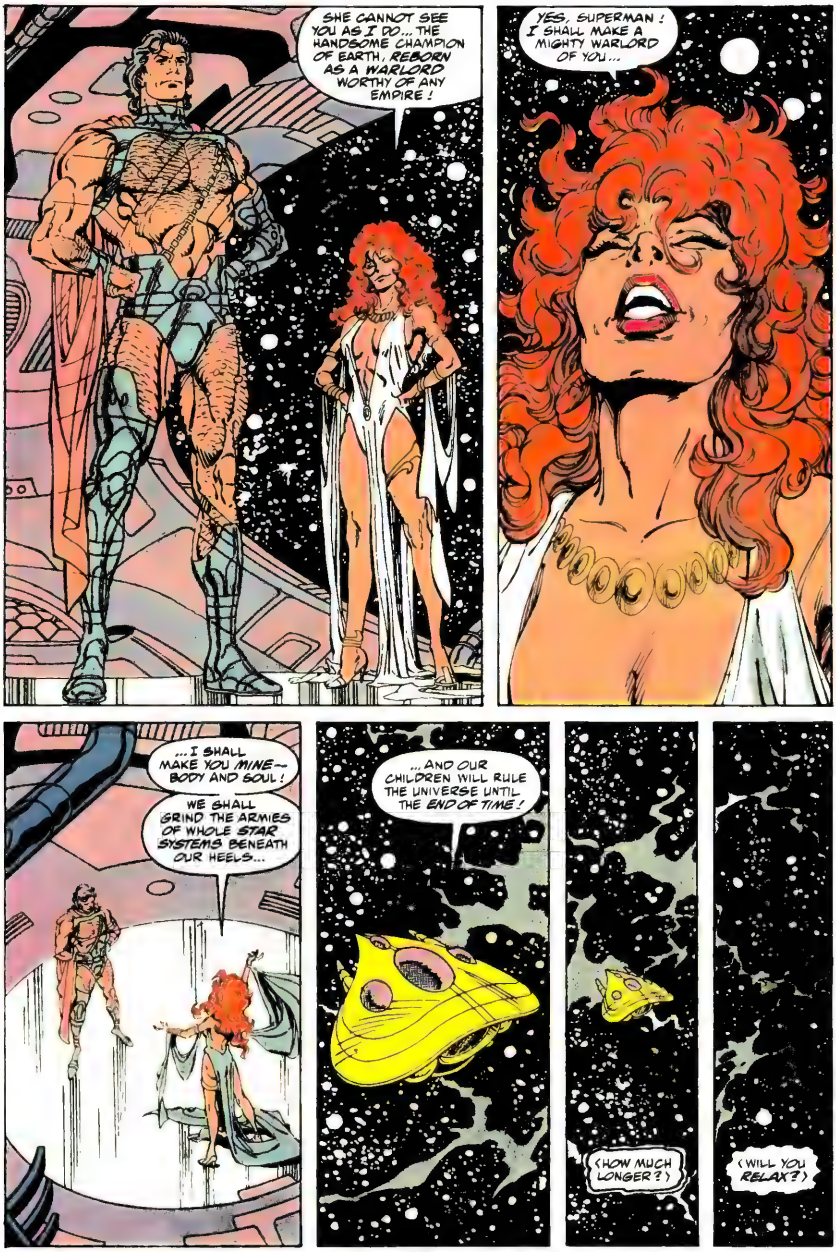

THAT LITTLE FOOL SAZU... HOW COULD SHE THINK HIM UNWORTHY OF MY BLOOD LINE?

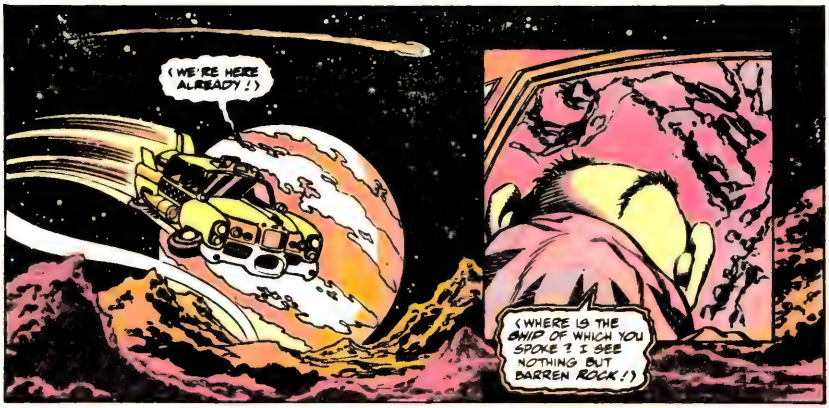

UNWORTHY?! IT IS ALMOST LAUGHABLE!
HOW COULD ANYONE SEE THIS MAN AS ANYTHING LESS THAN PERFECT?

ABSOLUTELY PERFECT.

WOULD THAT YOU WERE MORE THAN A MERE PROJECTION--! BUT NO, OUR MEETING WILL BE ALL THE BETTER FOR THE ANTICIPATION!
WHEN YOU DID NOT KILL OUR TERRAN UNDERLINGS, SAZU THOUGHT YOU WEAK, GUTLESS--

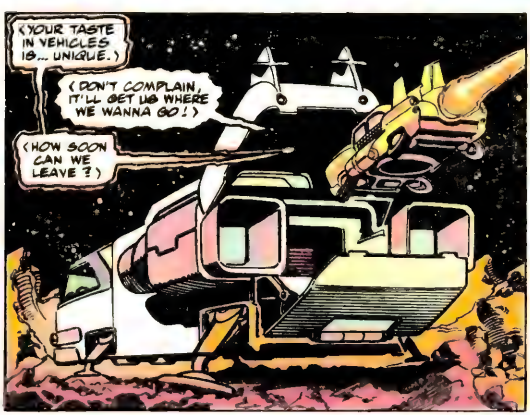
--BUT THOSE MENIALS WERE SO BENEATH YOUR GREAT POWER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WASTE OF IT TO SLAY THEM.
SAZU WAS BLIND TO THAT. LIKE MOST OF HER CASTE, THE POOR WRETCH IS ALMOST TOTALLY LACKING IN IMAGINATION!


SHE CANNOT SEE YOU AS I DO... THE HANDSOME CHAMPION OF EARTH, REBORN AS A WARLORD WORTHY OF ANY EMPIRE!
YES, SUPERMAN! I SHALL MAKE A MIGHTY WARLORD OF YOU...
...I SHALL MAKE YOU MINE--BODY AND SOUL!
WE SHALL GRIND THE ARMIES OF WHOLE STAR SYSTEMS BENEATH OUR HEELS...
...AND OUR CHILDREN WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE UNTIL THE END OF TIME!
(HOW MUCH LONGER?)
(WILL YOU RELAX?)

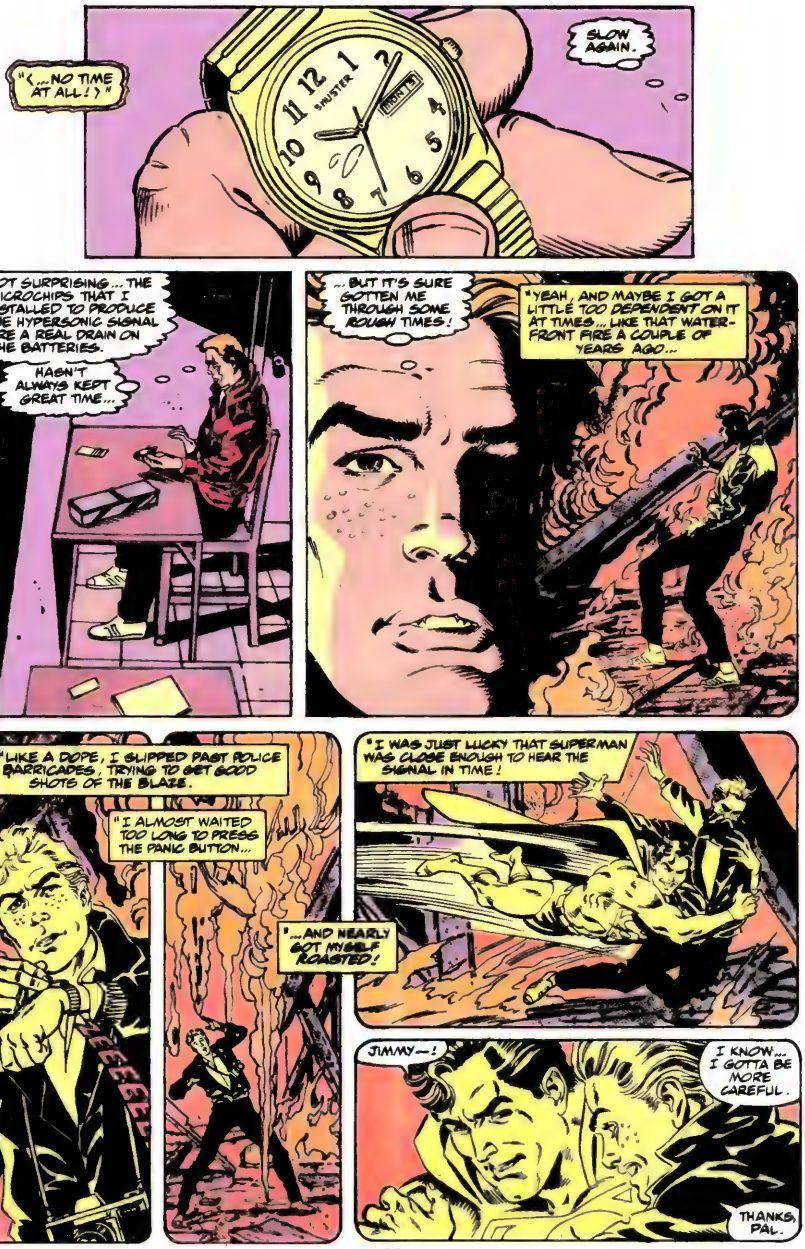

(WE'RE HERE ALREADY!)
(WHERE IS THE SHIP OF WHICH YOU SPOKE? I SEE NOTHING BUT BARREN ROCK!)

(OF COURSE YOU DO! IF I LEFT IT OUT FOR EVERYONE TO SEE, SOME CREEP MIGHT TRY TO STEAL IT! THAT'S WHERE THIS LITTLE GIZMO COMES IN! I JUST PUNCH IN THE CODE--)
NEEP NEEP NEEP

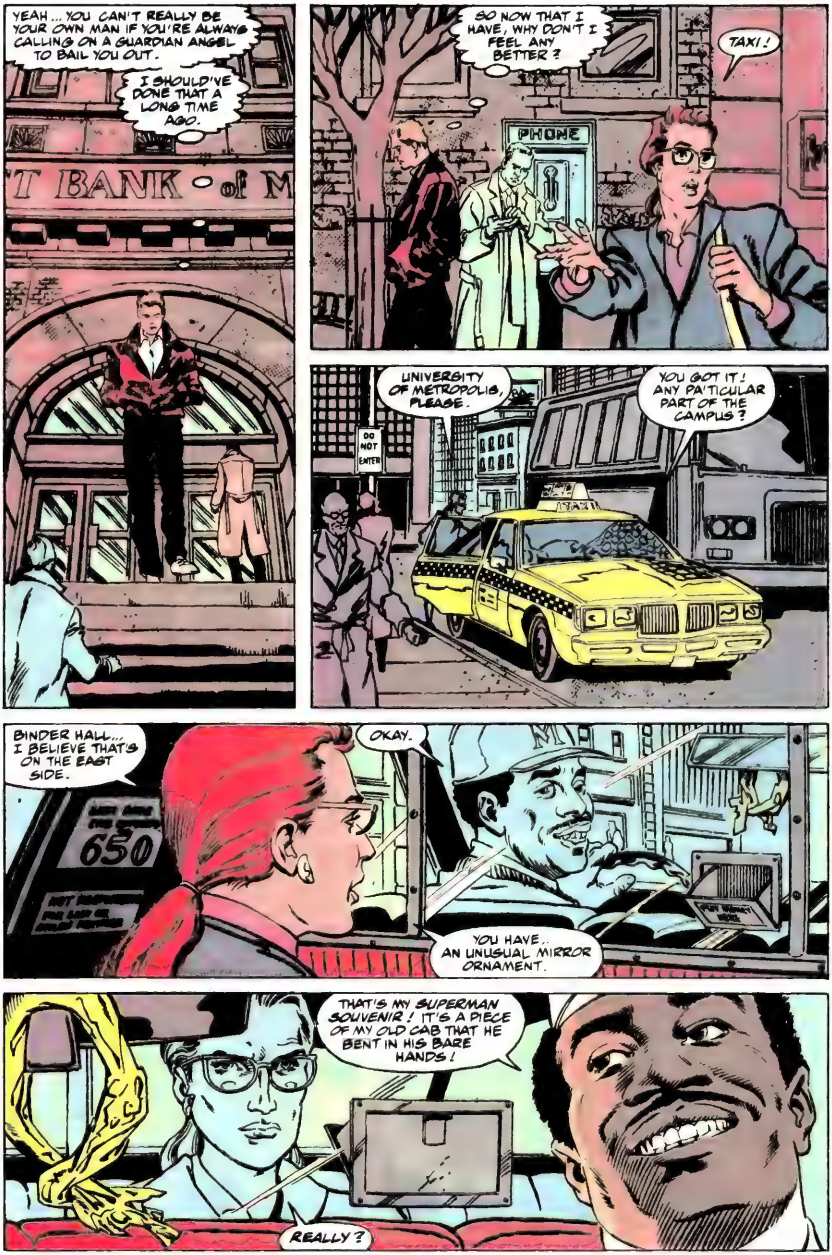
(--AND VOILÀ! THE CAMOUFLAGE FIELD FADES OUT... AND THERE'S MY BABY!)

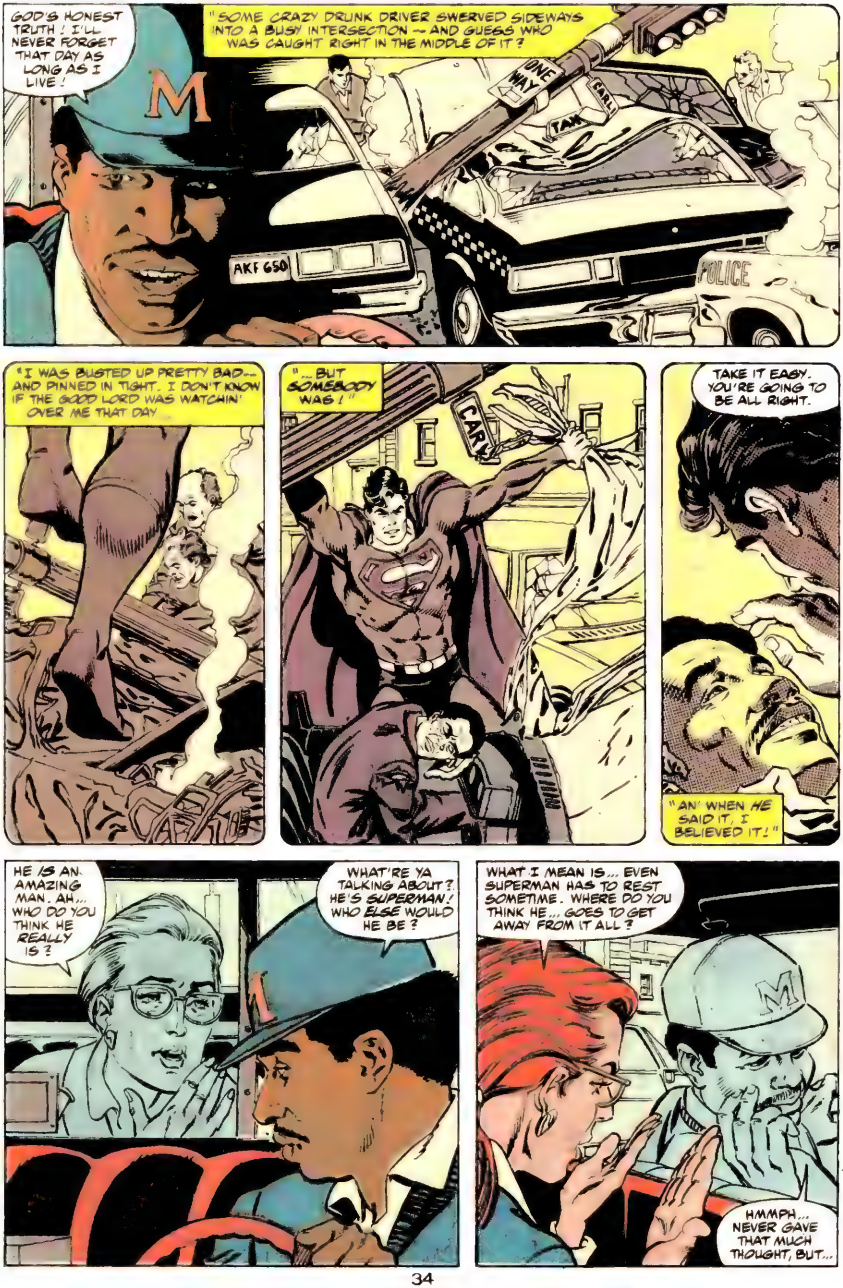

(YOUR TASTE IN VEHICLES IS... UNIQUE.)
(DON'T COMPLAIN, IT'LL GET US WHERE WE WANNA GO!)
(HOW SOON CAN WE LEAVE?)

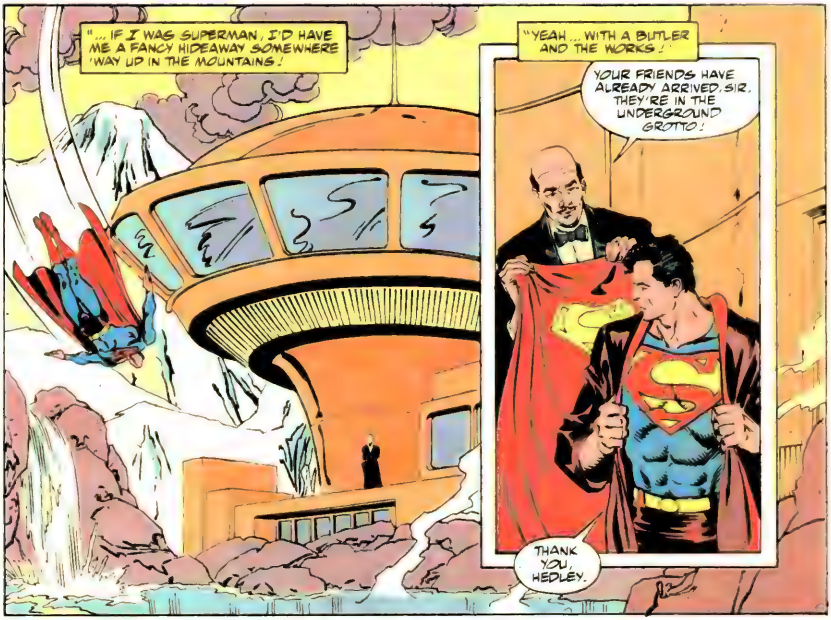
(KEEP YER SHIRT ON, PAL... JUST AS SOON AS EVERYTHING IS STOWED AWAY, WE'LL BE OUTTA HERE IN NO TIME...)

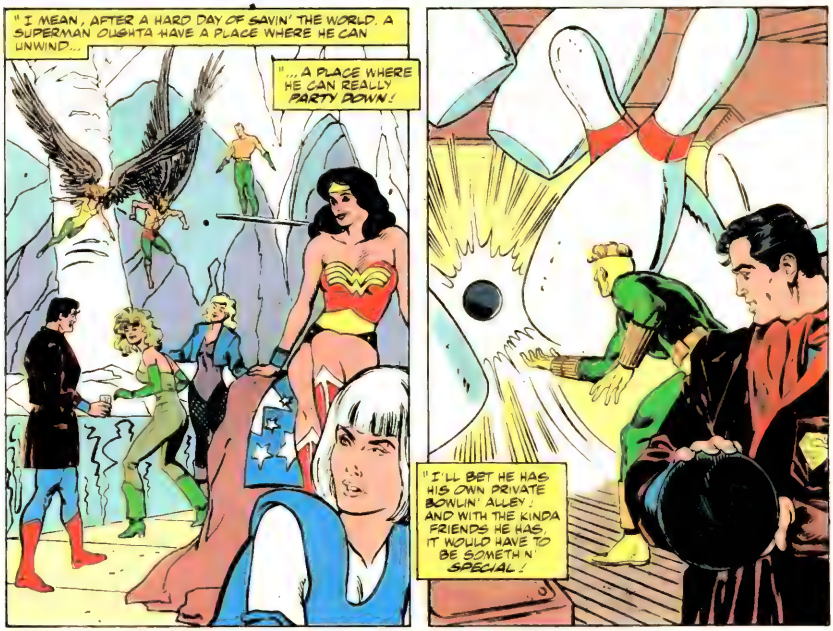

"(...NO TIME AT ALL!)"
SLOW AGAIN.
NOT SURPRISING... THE MICROCHIPS THAT I INSTALLED TO PRODUCE THE HYPERSONIC SIGNAL ARE A REAL DRAIN ON THE BATTERIES.
HASN'T ALWAYS KEPT GREAT TIME...
...BUT IT'S SURE GOTTEN ME THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES!
"YEAH, AND MAYBE I GOT A LITTLE TOO DEPENDENT ON IT AT TIMES... LIKE THAT WATERFRONT FIRE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO...
"LIKE A DOPE, I SLIPPED PAST POLICE BARRICADES, TRYING TO GET GOOD SHOTS OF THE BLAZE.
"I ALMOST WAITED TOO LONG TO PRESS THE PANIC BUTTON...
"...AND NEARLY GOT MYSELF ROASTED!
"I WAS JUST LUCKY THAT SUPERMAN WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR THE SIGNAL IN TIME!
JIMMY—!
I KNOW... I GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL.
THANKS, PAL.

YEAH, THANKS, "PAL"!
YOU WERE ALWAYS WARNING ME TO BE CAREFUL - BUT YOU WERE THE ONE --
"-- WHO BROUGHT THAT KRYPTONIAN GIZMO TO EARTH ... THE ONE THAT HAD ME STRETCHING OUT OF SHAPE.
"OH, SURE, YOU FELT REAL BAD ABOUT THAT..
"... SO BAD THAT YOU TOOK ME TO SOME SECRET GENETICS PROJECT AND DUMPED ME IN THE HANDS OF A D.N.ALIEN AND SOME SCREWY SCIENTISTS.
"THEY GOT ME STRAIGHTENED OUT, BUT THEY NEVER MENTIONED THAT THERE WOULD BE SIDE-EFFECTS.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN ... MY HAIR IS GROWING BACK FINALLY! I SUPPOSE IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE -- I COULD'VE GOTTEN FURRY OR TURNED INTO A MUTANT TURTLE OR SOMETHING.
STILL, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SUPERMAN!
WITH MY SIGNAL WATCH LOCKED AWAY HERE, I WON'T EVEN BE TEMPTED TO CALL ON HIM FOR HELP.


YEAH... YOU CAN'T REALLY BE YOUR OWN MAN IF YOU'RE ALWAYS CALLING ON A GUARDIAN ANGEL TO BAIL YOU OUT.
I SHOULD'VE DONE THAT A LONG TIME AGO.
T BANK of M
SO NOW THAT I HAVE, WHY DON'T I FEEL ANY BETTER?
TAXI!
PHONE
UNIVERSITY OF METROPOLIS, PLEASE.
YOU GOT IT! ANY PA'TICULAR PART OF THE CAMPUS?
DO NOT ENTER
BINDER HALL... I BELIEVE THAT'S ON THE EAST SIDE.
OKAY.
650
YOU HAVE.. AN UNUSUAL MIRROR ORNAMENT.
THAT'S MY SUPERMAN SOUVENIR! IT'S A PIECE OF MY OLD CAB THAT HE BENT IN HIS BARE HANDS!
REALLY?

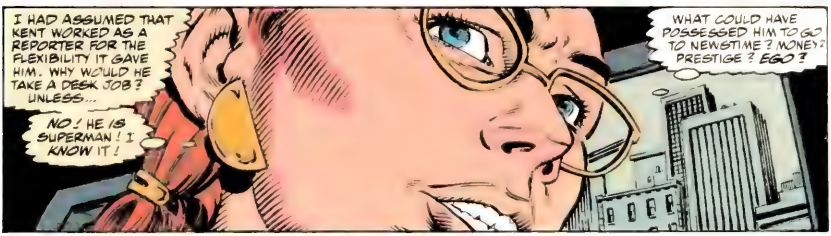

GOD'S HONEST TRUTH! I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY AS LONG AS I LIVE!
"SOME CRAZY DRUNK DRIVER SWERVED SIDEWAYS INTO A BUSY INTERSECTION — AND GUESS WHO WAS CAUGHT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT?
ONE WAY
CARS
TAXI
AKF 650
POLICE
"I WAS BUSTED UP PRETTY BAD— AND PINNED IN TIGHT. I DON'T KNOW IF THE GOOD LORD WAS WATCHIN' OVER ME THAT DAY.
"... BUT SOMEBODY WAS!"
CARS
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
"AN' WHEN ME SAID IT, I BELIEVED IT!"
HE IS AN AMAZING MAN. AH... WHO DO YOU THINK HE REALLY IS?
WHAT'RE YA TALKING ABOUT? HE'S SUPERMAN! WHO ELSE WOULD HE BE?
WHAT I MEAN IS... EVEN SUPERMAN HAS TO REST SOMETIME. WHERE DO YOU THINK HE... GOES TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?
HMMPH... NEVER GAVE THAT MUCH THOUGHT, BUT...

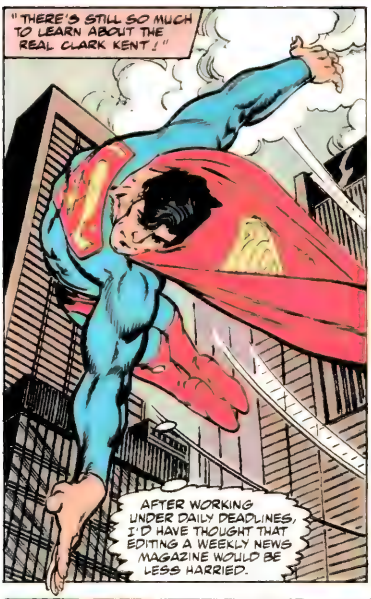

"... IF I WAS SUPERMAN, I'D HAVE ME A FANCY HIDEAWAY SOMEWHERE 'WAY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS!
"YEAH ... WITH A BUTLER AND THE WORKS!"
YOUR FRIENDS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED, SIR. THEY'RE IN THE UNDERGROUND GROTTO!
THANK YOU, HEDLEY.


"I MEAN, AFTER A HARD DAY OF SAVIN' THE WORLD, A SUPERMAN OUGHTA HAVE A PLACE WHERE HE CAN UNWIND...
"... A PLACE WHERE HE CAN REALLY PARTY DOWN!
"I'LL BET HE HAS HIS OWN PRIVATE BOWLIN' ALLEY! AND WITH THE KINDA FRIENDS HE HAS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMETH'N' SPECIAL!

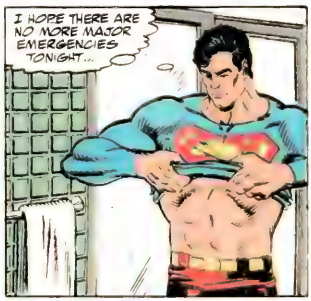
"NOT THAT EVERYTHING HAS TO BE THAT ELABORATE...
"...I SEE SUPERMAN AS THE KINDA GUY WHO COULD RELAX JUST BY HAVIN' A FEW BUDDIES OVER FOR POKER!"
ANOTHER FULL HOUSE?! HOW DO YOU DO IT?
"AND BEIN' SUPERMAN... HE CAN FLY TO FIND A PERFECT SUNSET WHENEVER HE WANTS ONE.
"MUST MAKE FOR A LOT OF ROMANTIC EVENINGS..."
...UH... ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW I SEE IT.
I MEAN, SUPERMAN COULD LIVE HALFWAY 'ROUND THE WORLD, RIGHT?
RIGHT...
...HOWEVER, HE HAPPENS TO LIVE IN THIS CITY. BUT YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE THE TRUTH--
"--I COULDN'T CONVINCE LEX LUTHOR THAT HIS OWN INVESTIGATION PROVED SUPERMAN TO BE CLARK KENT!"
GIVEN THE BODY OF EVIDENCE, IT'S SO LOGICAL! SO FLAWLESSLY LOGICAL!
IS IT? TO A MACHINE, PERHAPS.
I KNOW BETTER... NO MAN WITH THE POWER OF SUPERMAN WOULD EVER PRETEND TO BE A MERE HUMAN!
SUCH POWER IS TO BE CONSTANTLY EXPLOITED. SUCH POWER IS TO BE USED!!

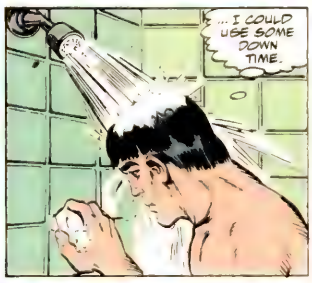
THAT MONSTER FIRED ME AND ORDERED MY DATA BANKS ERASED. HE COULDN'T CONCEIVE OF ANYONE THINKING DIFFERENTLY THAN HE.
BUT I SWEAR, SOMEDAY I'LL FIND INDISPUTABLE PROOF! AND THEN--!
HMMM...
LOCAL LOOK
Clark Kent named managing editor of Newstime
Please

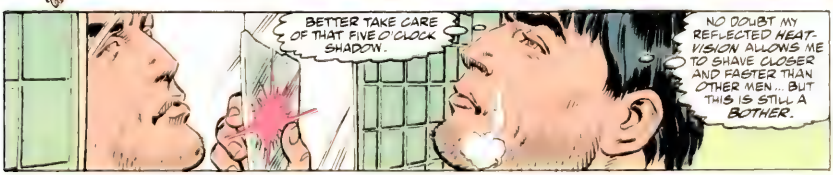

I HAD ASSUMED THAT KENT WORKED AS A REPORTER FOR THE FLEXIBILITY IT GAVE HIM. WHY WOULD HE TAKE A DESK JOB? UNLESS...
NO! HE IS SUPERMAN! I KNOW IT!
WHAT COULD HAVE POSSESSED HIM TO GO TO NEWSTIME? MONEY? PRESTIGE? EGO?

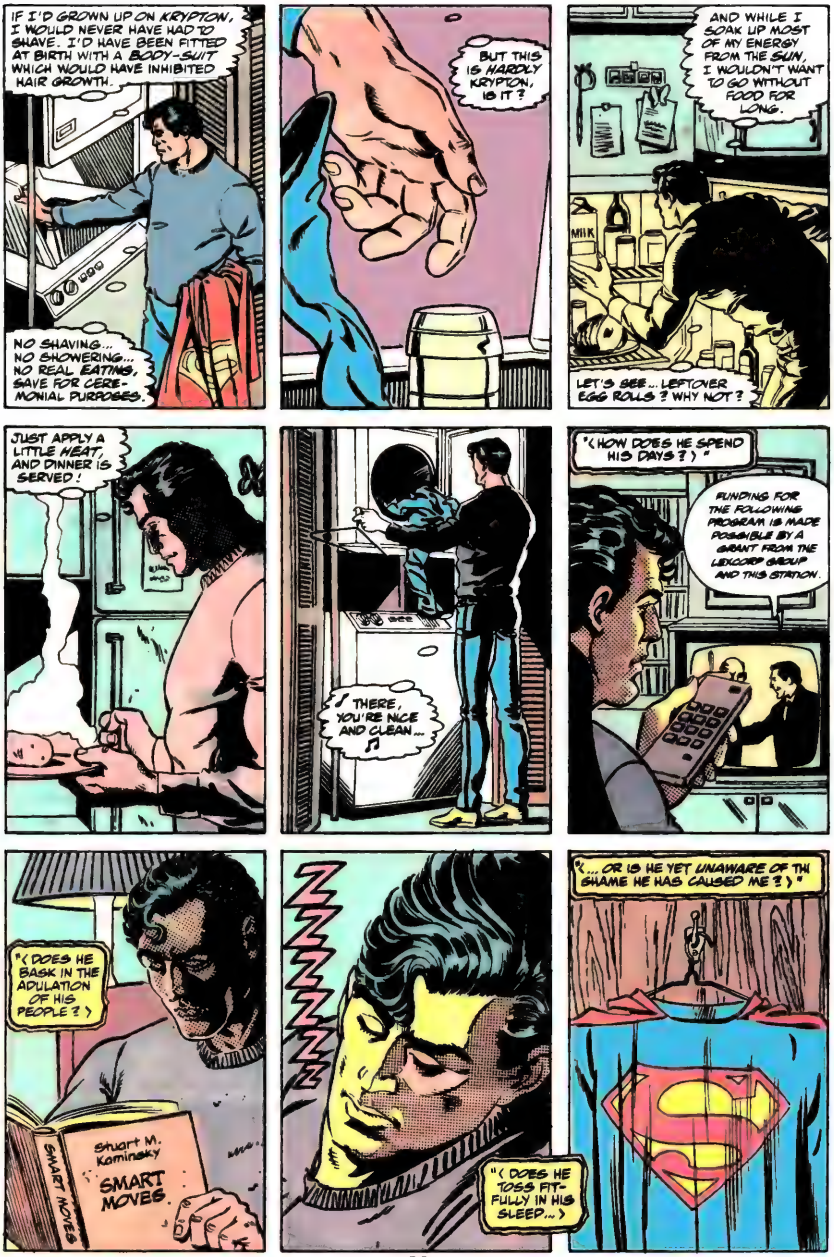

"THERE'S STILL SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE REAL CLARK KENT!"
AFTER WORKING UNDER DAILY DEADLINES, I'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT EDITING A WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE WOULD BE LESS HARRIED.

WELL, LIVE AND LEARN!


I HOPE THERE ARE NO MORE MAJOR EMERGENCIES TONIGHT...


... I COULD USE SOME DOWN TIME.


BETTER TAKE CARE OF THAT FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW.
NO DOUBT MY REFLECTED HEAT-VISION ALLOWS ME TO SHAVE CLOSER AND FASTER THAN OTHER MEN... BUT THIS IS STILL A BOTHER.


IF I'D GROWN UP ON KRYPTON, I WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD TO SHAVE. I'D HAVE BEEN FITTED AT BIRTH WITH A BODY-SUIT WHICH WOULD HAVE INHIBITED HAIR GROWTH.
NO SHAVING... NO SHOWERING... NO REAL EATING, SAVE FOR CEREMONIAL PURPOSES.
BUT THIS IS HARDLY KRYPTON, IS IT?
AND WHILE I SOAK UP MOST OF MY ENERGY FROM THE SUN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO WITHOUT FOOD FOR LONG.
MILK
LET'S SEE... LEFTOVER EGG ROLLS? WHY NOT?
JUST APPLY A LITTLE HEAT, AND DINNER IS SERVED!
THERE, YOU'RE NICE AND CLEAN... ♫
"(HOW DOES HE SPEND HIS DAYS?)"
FUNDING FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE LEXCORP GROUP AND THIS STATION.
"(DOES HE BASK IN THE ADULATION OF HIS PEOPLE?)
Stuart M. Kominsky
SMART MOVES
SMART MOVES.
ZZZZZZ
"(DOES HE TOSS FITFULLY IN HIS SLEEP...)
"...OR IS HE YET UNAWARE OF THE SHAME HE HAS CAUSED ME?)"

(NO... HOW CAN HE NOT KNOW ?)
(LISTEN...)
(... I'M FACING A LOT OF RISKS IN TAKING YOU TO EARTH. SO, BEFORE WE LIFT OFF, I WANNA SEE THE COLOR OF YOUR DOUGH.)
(WHAT DO YOU WANT ? HOW MANY KILO-CREDITS ?)
(SIX-FIFTY, JUNIOR ! PAYMENT UP FRONT -- OR I DON'T MOVE !)
(I WILL GIVE YOU EIGHT HUNDRED... HALF OF IT NOW... THE REMAINDER UPON ARRIVAL !)
(WEL-L-L, I GUESS I CAN LIVE WITH THAT !)
(HANG ONTO YER EARS, PAL O' MINE...)

(...'CAUSE A-WAY WE GO!)
(NEXT STOP... EARTH!)
(♪ DO-DO-DOODY-DO! ♫ HEY, YA MIND IF I PUT ON A LITTLE TRAVELIN' MUSIC?)
(DO AS YOU WISH.)
(I PRAY THAT I DO NOT KILL THIS FOOL BEFORE WE REACH EARTH... AND THAT HIS SHIP IS FASTER THAN IT LOOKS.)
(I MUST CONFRONT THE SUPERMAN SOON, IF I AM TO SETTLE OUR SCORE--)
(-- FOR SURELY A CHAMPION AS MIGHTY AS HE MUST FACE CHALLENGES FROM ALL MANNER OF FOES. AND MINE MUST BE THE HAND THAT BRINGS HIM DOWN...)
"(... NONE OTHER!)"
(I'M LOOKING FOR A GOOD FIGHT... BUT I'LL SETTLE FOR A BAD ONE! ANYONE CARE TO OBLIGE?)
(L-L-LOBO!)
NEXT MONTH:
DRAAGA'S BOUND FOR EARTH, BUT HE'LL HAVE TO WAIT HIS TURN!
ROUND 1:
IN SUPERMAN #41 ...LOBO VS. BIBBO! (JERRY SAYS, "DON'T ASK! JUST BUY IT!")
ROUND 2:
IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #464 ...LOBO VS. THE MAN OF STEEL!
ROUND 3:
IN ACTION COMICS #651 ... SUPERMAN VS. MAXIMA IN THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES!
RESERVE YOUR SEATS TODAY!

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

KENT, SINCE I'M THE MAN WHO *HIRED* YOU AS EDITOR OF NEWSTIME MAGAZINE, I FEEL IT'S MY PLACE TO *SAY* THIS--

--I HAVE MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT SOME CHANGES HERE. THIS ISN'T THE CLOSE-KNIT OPERATION IT *ONCE* WAS...

HAVE I *NOT* PERFORMED THE DUTIES YOU ENGAGED ME FOR, MR. THORNTON?

Writer/Artist: JERRY ORDWAY
Inker: DENNIS JANKE
Colorist: GLENN WHITMORE
Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA
Associate editor: JON PETERSON
Editor: MIKE "MOOCH" CARLIN

I'VE DELIVERED A *SOLID* MAGAZINE WEEK IN, AND WEEK OUT, AS YOU REQUESTED OF ME.

YOU'RE NOT *GETTING* IT, KENT...

YOU MANAGED TO *ALIENATE* VALUED, LONGTIME EMPLOYEES...

Newstime

CLARK KENT

YOU *FIRE* PEOPLE WHO DON'T *AGREE* WITH YOU...

SIR? EXCUSE ME, BUT A SITUATION IS DEVELOPING IN NEW YORK...

SOMEONE CALLING HIMSELF *DRAAGA* IS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF TIMES SQUARE DEMANDING TO FIGHT *SUPERMAN*..!

DRAAGA? I'D BETTER *SEE TO IT*..

SEE TO WHAT? I'M *TALKING* TO YOU, KENT!

WE HAVE *REPORTERS* TO COVER STORIES!

"KENT!! WHERE'D HE GO?"

SURPLUS

THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR...

KRYPTON MAN™

FASCINATING.

DURING MY CONFRONTATION WITH MAXIMA*, I HAD FELT MY GARMENT REWEAVING ITSELF INTO THIS VERY PATTERN...

HOW UTTERLY *LOGICAL*. IT REFLECTS MY *TRUE* HERITAGE, AND MY REBIRTH IN THE WAYS OF KRYPTON.

AS I SHED MY EARTHLY TRAPPINGS, THE MASQUERADE OF SUPERMAN SHALL END AS WELL.

...A TRIBUTE TO THE CEREMONIAL ROBES WORN ON MY LONG-DEAD HOMEWORLD *KRYPTON* BY JOR-EL, MY FATHER.

*see ACTION #651, still on sale.

I AM SIMPLY *KAL-EL*...

...THE *LAST SON* OF *KRYPTON*.

AND NOW, THERE IS THE MATTER AT HAND-- ONE THAT REQUIRES MY INTERVENTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK...

"...I MUST DEAL WITH DRAAGA."

<WHERE IS THE SUPERMAN?!>

:KOFF KOFF:

VISIT EXCIT
METROPO
Hour-Lagua
LEXAIR
STAR
DAI
< I AM IN HIS METROPOLIS-- WHY DOES HE NOT SHOW HIMSELF? >
:' KOFF KOFF :' < CAN'T BREATHE... >
< I WILL PAY FOR YOUR VEHICLE--EH?>
< C-CAN'T BREATHE... >
< HERE, K'RAAMDYN. INHALE THROUGH THIS DEVICE... >
< IT SHOULD FILTER ANY TOXINS FROM THIS ATMOSPHERE. >
LEXAIR
< IT WAS CARELESS OF YOU NOT TO PREPARE FOR SUCH A SITUATION. >
< I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU DEAD! YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME WITHIN REACH OF MY GOAL TO CONFRONT THE KRYPTONIAN! >
< THANKS, PAL. >
< BUT YER STILL PAYIN' FER MY SHIP! WHY, A'LISS WOULD SKIN ME ALIVE-- >
< QUIT YOUR PRATTLE! YOUR SHIP IS ABOUT READY TO-- >

<--BLOW!>

WHIS

BOOM!

ING

IS

CHARLIE, THE GUYS AT THE STATION SAID WE'RE GOING *LIVE* WITH THIS ONE!

WUBS TV NEW YORK

LET'S JUST HOPE SUPERMAN'S COMING, *AND* THAT THESE TWO WASTES ARE *STILL* ALIVE WHEN HE GETS HERE!

WITH ALL THE SUPERHERO EXCITEMENT THIS TOWN GETS, THE VIEWERS STILL CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT!

OUR GOOD FORTUNE, M'BOY!

"*NEVER A SLOW NEWS DAY IN NEW YORK!*"

:UGHN!:

<I PRAY THIS *PARAPET* HOLDS OUR WEIGHT!>

<HOMINAH HOMINAH HOMINAH>

<WHERE DID--?>

<*YOU!!!*>

(I AM KAL-EL.)

YOU MAY SPEAK IN YOUR *OWN* TONGUE. I HAVE PREPARED FOR THIS MOMENT!

YOUR FACE IS NOW SMOOTH--YOUR GARMENT'S DIFFERENT, BUT IT *IS* YOU, AT *LAST!*

I WEAR YOUR TOTEM AS A SYMBOL OF MY HUMILIATION...

I PIECED TOGETHER REMNANTS OF *THIS*, THE UNIFORM YOU WORE WHEN YOU WERE BROUGHT TO *WARWORLD!*

IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME. STATE YOUR BUSINESS, OR I SHALL LEAVE.

MY *BUSINESS* IS THIS...

I WAS THE *CHAMPION* OF THE GLADIATORIAL GAMES, EARNING MY *LIFE* THROUGH THE DEATHS OF MY OPPONENTS.

"THE RULE WAS CLEAR..."

KILL! KILL HIM!

I'M SUPERMAN AND I *DON'T* KILL!

THAT WAS UNTIL *YOU* BESTED ME IN BATTLE.

YOU CHEATED ME OF MY *DEATH-RIGHT...*

YOU *OWE* ME A RETURN MATCH--TO THE *DEATH!*

YOU CONFUSE *HONOR* WITH *VANITY*, BUT I HAVE VIOLATED *YOUR* CODE, LET ME MAKE AMENDS...

...BY FIRING THE FIRST VOLLEY!

POW!

WHAT A PUNCH!

WHO'S THIS GUY IN BLACK? THAT ISN'T SUPERMAN, IS IT?

"I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S GOT A MEAN RIGHT HOOK!"

WHOOSH!

WUZZAT?

DUNNO, BUT WE GOT LOTS O'FISH TO LOAD!

FRESH, SALT AND SMOKED

OYSTERS AND CLAMS

FULTON FISH CO., Md.

RI-ING... RI-ING. :CLICK:

"HELLO. I HAVE A PERSON TO PERSON CALL FOR A MR. CLARK KEN--"

"HI, THIS IS CLARK. I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW, SO LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER AND A MESSAGE AT THE TONE." BE-EEP!

SPLASH

"SIR? HE SEEMS TO HAVE AN ANSWERING MACHINE ON. DO YOU WANT TO TRY BACK LATER?"

"NO, NO, OPERATOR, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS ALREADY. I'LL LEAVE A MESSAGE."

"THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING LEX-COM FOR YOUR LONG DISTANCE NEEDS"

"CLARK? THIS IS JON AND MARTHA. REMEMBER US? WE'RE YOUR FOLKS--TALK TO US. WE'RE FAMILY.

"IF YOU NEED TO TALK, REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE. WE'RE HE--"

BE-EEP

BING-BONG BING-BONG

NO ONE HOME AGAIN!

WELL, FOR HIS SAKE, CLARK KENT BETTER BE OUT LOOKING FOR A NEW APARTMENT!

CLARK KENT

Notice of Eviction

"HMMM. LOOKS BAD..."

...REAL BAD.

THIS IS ONE PIECE OF MAIL I SHOULD'VE OPENED PROMPTLY!

I'M BEING *EVICTED* BECAUSE LEXCORP PURCHASED *THIS* BROWNSTONE AND PLANS TO TURN IT CO-OP!

SAYS HERE I *OWE* BACK RENT... BUT THE *ONE* PAYMENT I'VE SCRAPED TOGETHER EVERY MONTH HAS *BEEN* THE RENT CHECK!

NOTICE OF EVICTION

Property Management, a division of Lexcorp Realty holdings hereby notifies Mr. Jose Delgado of termination of Re... Landlord relati... effective mid... This is th... final n...

Delgado

'COURSE, I NEVER NOTICED WHETHER THEY *CASHED* THEM OR NOT!

I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST LEX LUTHOR TO ORCHESTRATE *THIS* SCENARIO--*ESPECIALLY* AFTER WHAT I DID TO *HIM*!

IT'S ALL A BLUR--FIRST BECOMING A *SUPERHERO*...

...THEN GETTING *CRIPPLED* SAVING LOIS LANE'S LIFE FROM A LEXCORP THUG...

...NEXT LEXCORP ENDEAVORS TO GIVE ME *BACK* THE USE OF MY LEGS IN EXCHANGE FOR MY *SERVITUDE* TO THEM...

...FINALLY, WITH THE HELP OF THAT WACKY PROFESSOR HAMILTON, I GAINED MY FREEDOM AND *EMBARRASSED* LUTHOR IN THE PROCESS!

HE VOWED TO GET *EVEN*. MAYBE THIS IS JUST THE *START*.

WELL, WHAT DO I DO NOW? I CAN'T VERY WELL CALL LOIS.. I GUESS I'LL ROOM AT THE *YMCA*, UNTIL I CAN FIND WORK.

MY TEACHING CAREER'S IN THE PAST, NO EMPLOYER CAN INSURE A GUY WITH *MY* MEDICAL HISTORY!

MONARCH STUDIOS
MR JOSEPH MORGAN
PRESIDENT
7313 SUNSET BLVD
HOLLYWOOD CA 90028

MR. JOSÉ DELGADO

HA! WITH ALL THE HOSPITAL TIME I'VE LOGGED, METRO GENERAL SHOULD HAVE A BED WITH MY NAME ON IT!

WHAT WAS IT GRANDMA USED TO SAY? WHEN ALL HOPE IS LOST...

"'...WHEN HONOR DIES, THE MAN IS DEAD.'"

<MORE HAS CHANGED THAN THE SUPERMAN'S GARB. HIS MANNER HERE, ON HIS HOME-WORLD, IS DIFFERENT.>

<I STILL FEEL CONFIDENT THAT I SHALL REDEEM MYSELF... >

<...IN VICTORY, OR EVEN IN DEATH, IT IS MY DESTINY. >

FOR HONOR!

SPLASH

WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT, DRAAGA, I WAS AT A DISADVANTAGE...

I WAS CONFUSED, DISORIENTED...

YEOWP!

...HERE I AM AT FULL STRENGTH...

...MY SENSE OF BEING IS CRYSTAL CLEAR!

LIVE, FROM THE HARBOR, THE BATTLE ENSUES! THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND -- "WHERE ARE THIS CITY'S HEROES?

WHERE ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, OR THE TITANS?

AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE HINTED THAT THESE SUPER-GROUPS WERE ASKED NOT TO INTERVENE...

THE REQUEST ALLEGEDLY CAME FROM SUPERMAN HIMSELF, BUT THUS FAR, THE MAN OF STEEL HAS NOT BEEN SEEN--

VBS

--GOOD LORD--!

CRASH!

PEPTO-BISMOL

YOU *DOOFUS!* THAT GUY IN *BLACK* IS *SUPERMAN!*

AND SOMETHING IS *VERY* WRONG WITH HIM!

I'VE BEEN AFRAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS HAPPENING TO HIM! HE HASN'T BEEN HIS *OLD* SELF IN SOME TIME!

HIS ATTITUDE'S BEEN *SO* CAVALIER--HE'S BEEN SO BLOODY *FULL* OF *HIMSELF!*

WELL, IT'S TIME *EMIL HAMILTON* STEPPED IN.

SOME HAPLESS BYSTANDER'S GOING TO GET HURT...

...OR *WORSE* STILL, OTHER SUPERHEROES'LL GET INVOLVED AND *THEN* IT'LL BE A *BIG CRISIS!*

I NEED TO *ISOLATE* THEM BOTH FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

HMMMM THIS *TELEPORT* DEVICE I'VE BEEN TINKERING WITH ON AND OFF FOR THE PAST YEAR! IT WORKED SPLENDIDLY WHEN I TESTED IT!

I COULD USE *IT* TO GET TO NEW YORK MYSELF...

BUT I'M *AFRAID* TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE FRACAS--I *AM* AN ELDERLY GENT--TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT FOR ME...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TV CAMERAS ARE RIGHT THERE, ON TOP OF THE ACTION! 'COURSE, THEY'RE ALL YOUNG AND FOOLISH!

SAY...IF I CAN SOMEHOW TAP INTO THE TELEVISION SIGNAL... I MAY BE ABLE TO JURY-RIG THIS CONTRAPTION TO TELEPORT *THEM* BY *REMOTE CONTROL!*

THAT'LL SAVE *ME* A TRIP...

"...I NEVER CARED MUCH FOR NEW YORK ANYWAYS!"

<K'RAAMDYN, YOU'RE A LUCKY ONE!>

<WHAT A SIGHT!>

<AN AUTHENTIC SOL-3 STYLE TRANSPORT!>

NO STANDING

HEY! YOU CRAZY?

EEEEEEEE

<WHOOPS!>

WHUMP!

@#$%! MY CAB!

TAKE-ME-TO-ACTION!

YOU NO HURT?

NAHHHH.

YOU NO WANT, EH, HOSPITAL?

JUST-DRIVE-PLEASE!

YOU WANT ACTION, YOU TRY KIT-KAT CLUB?

A'LISS ALWAYS TELLS ME "NEVER FORGET YOUR TRANSLATOR-CHIP" AND WHAT'S THE FIRST THING I FORGET?

ACTION... FIGHT... NO KITKAT.

YOU FROM OUT OF TOWN, I TAKE YOU TO SEE BIG ACTION...

...I TAKE YOU TO SEE LIBERTY STATUE")

<WHAT A GREAT AND NOBLE IMAGE...>

<A GOD, NO DOUBT, PROTECTING THEIR SHORES.>

<IT SERVES TO REMIND ME OF THE *ICONS* ON *MY* HOME PLANET, *BEFORE* THE SHADOW OF WAR-WORLD FELL UPON IT.>

<THIS SUPERMAN IS FAR STRONGER THAN WHEN LAST WE MET...>

<HE POSSESSES THE POWER OF *FLIGHT*, AS WELL.>

<I SENSE MY FATE WILL BE DECIDED *HERE*...>

<SO BE IT...>

FACE ME, TOE TO TOE, ON THIS FIELD OF BATTLE, KRYPTONIAN...

ONLY ONE OF US SHALL BE LEFT STANDING...

I HAD FAINT HOPE YOU WOULD *ABANDON* THIS DEATH-WISH, DRAAGA...

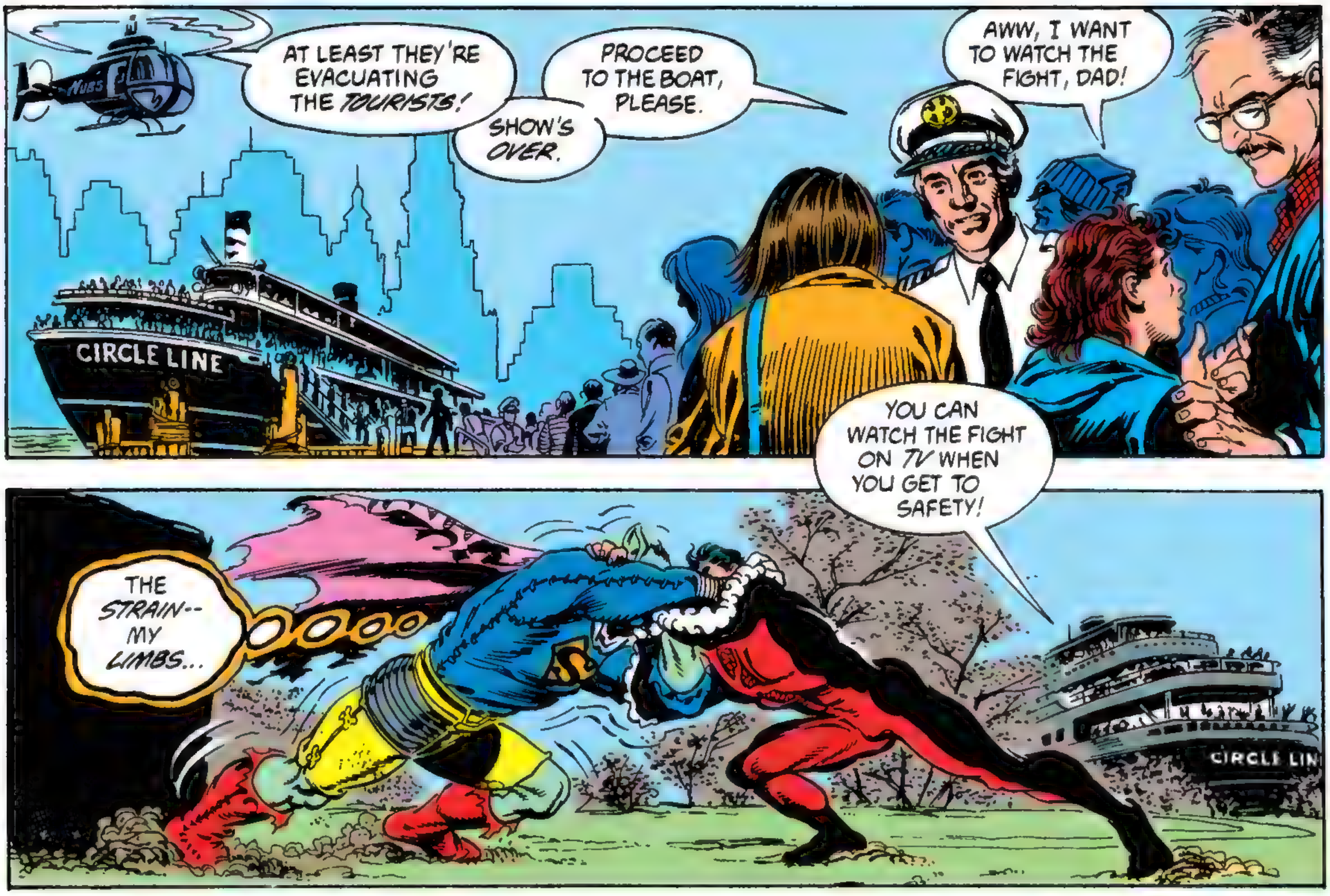
...BUT I SEE YOU ARE HONOR-BOUND TO THE WAYS OF *YOUR* PEOPLE, AS I AM *NOW* TO THE WAYS OF *MINE*.

TO THE *DEATH*, THEN.

TO THE *DEATH*!

NOW, *THERE'S* A STUDY IN TENSION -- NEITHER IS GIVING ANY GROUND.

I CAN FEEL THE VEINS POPPING WAY UP HERE!


AT LEAST THEY'RE EVACUATING THE TOURISTS!
SHOW'S OVER.
PROCEED TO THE BOAT, PLEASE.
AWW, I WANT TO WATCH THE FIGHT, DAD!
CIRCLE LINE
YOU CAN WATCH THE FIGHT ON TV WHEN YOU GET TO SAFETY!
THE STRAIN-- MY LIMBS...
CIRCLE LIN
"CHARLIE! THIS BROADCAST IS GOING NETWORK, COAST TO COAST! MUST BE A SLOW NEWS DAY!"
"MAN, MY MOM'S GOING TO BE MAD WHEN WE PREEMPT HER SOAP OPERA!"
I SENSE YOUR STRENGTH EBBING...
GIVE IT UP, DRAAGA!
NEVER!
"THE SIGHTSEERS ARE HEADED FOR SHORE..."
WE'LL BE THERE WHEN THEY DOCK, TO GET YOU EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THEIR VIEW OF THE BATTLE, DAN.
WHO CARES WHAT THEY SAW? WE ALL SAW THE SAME THING! WHAT KIND OF NETWORK COVERAGE IS THIS?

THOSE TWO *BOZOS* FIGHTING ARE YOUR *FOCUS*, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

WHY THEY DON'T DROP A CAMERAMAN AND A REPORTER ONTO THAT ISLAND IS BEYOND ME!

YOU CAN BET THAT'S WHAT *I'D* DO, IF THAT WAS HAPPENING IN METROPOLIS-- *EH?*

MY "*PRIVATE*" LINE IS FLASHING! I TOLD THEM *NOT* TO USE IT EVER AGAIN!

MISS STALLING? *NO* INTERRUPTIONS, OKAY?

YES, MR. EDGE.

BUZZZZ

I'M OUT ON *BAIL*, SUSPECTED OF *FRONTING* INTERGANG...

THEN, WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, MY *FATHER* WAS REINSTATED TO THE BOARD OF THIS COMPANY!

I DON'T *NEED* ANY MORE *WORRIES*.

WHIRRRRR

MANNHEIM! THIS CHANNEL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *OFF-LIMITS!*

NO EXCEPTIONS.

THIS IS IMPORTANT, MORGAN...

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CEMENT OUR TIES TO THE NATION OF QURAC...

THEY'RE SEEKING TO REBUILD THEIR ARSENAL, AND WE'VE GOT THE MERCHANDISE READY TO MOVE!

IT COULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL...

ARE *YOU CRAZY?*

MY *LEGAL* DEFENSE IS ALL MAPPED OUT, BUT FOR IT TO *WORK*, INTERGANG *HAS* TO *PLAY DEAD!*

"*LOW PROFILE*" DOESN'T *MEAN* ANOTHER *ARMS DEAL*, MANNHEIM!

MY DEFENSE HINGES ON CONVINCING TWELVE IDIOTS THAT I WAS BEING MIND-CONTROLLED BY BRAINIAC WHEN I BROKE THE LAW...

LEX LUTHOR WALKED AWAY FROM A PLATE-FULL OF TROUBLES BY PLEADING THAT CASE!

IT'S A LIE, BUT IT KEEPS OUR FRIENDS IN APOKOLIPS OUT OF IT.

I'LL SELL THE STORY TO THE JURY, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME--

READ MY LIPS--NO NEW INTERGANG ACTIVITIES!

AS YOU WISH, EDGE, BUT REMEMBER, IF WE FORGET OUR ALLIES, THEY'LL SOON FORGET US!

YET AGAIN, INTERGANG MUST FOLLOW HIS WHIM...

THOUGH, IT WAS HE WHO ALLOWED THAT REPORTER, CATHERINE GRANT, INTO OUR MIDST IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I'LL ABIDE BY THE LETTER OF HIS COMMAND. NO NEW BUSINESS WILL BE INITIATED...

BUT I WILL TIE UP THE LOOSE ENDS!

BARLOW, I WANT TO RE-OPEN THE "FILES" ON CLARK KENT, LOIS LANE, AND CATHERINE GRANT.

SIR, I WAS GIVEN ORDERS--ESPECIALLY CONCERNING RE-OPENING THE GRANT FILE...

"THAT ORDER HAS BEEN RESCINDED AS OF NOW!"

THERE SHE IS--LIBERTY!

<FROM WHAT LITTLE I COULD TRANSLATE OF HIS BLABBING, MY FARE IS ON THAT ISLAND!>

<THIS GREAT POND STANDS BETWEEN HERE AND THERE.>

HEY! WHERE'S MY SIX-FIFTY?!

SPLASH!

<HAVEN'T PADDLED SINCE I WAS A GUP!>

"MY PAL BETTER BE WINNING, OR I WON'T GET TO COLLECT THE HALF-FARE HE OWES ME!"

WORLD TRADE CENTER

BROOKLYN B

BROOKLYN PORT AUTH MARINE TE

City

York

STATUE OF LIBERTY

I'VE LOCKED IN THE LOCATION OF THE TV HELICOPTER CREW BROADCASTING THE FRACAS FROM LIBERTY ISLAND.

LET'S SEE-- I'M GOING TO AIM MY TELEPORT BEAM AT THE ORBITING SATELLITE THAT THE NETWORK IS USING TO BROADCAST THE FIGHT...

MY BEAM FOLLOWS THEIR TRANSMISSION BEAM OFF THE SATELLITE, BACK INTO THE CAMERA...

AND THEIR CAMERA THEN ACTS AS A PROJECTOR FOR THE TELEPORTER RAY, BEAMING THE COMBATANTS ANYWHERE I CHOOSE!

MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE STUDIED SUPERMAN'S MASS BEFORE, BUT, FOR HIS OPPONENT I MUST HAZARD A GOOD GUESS!

THE TELEPORTER HAS TO BE TOLD HOW MUCH IT HAS TO TRANSPORT!

I'LL BE READY, AS SOON AS THE COMPUTERS ALIGN MY OWN DISH TO THAT OF THE TV SATELLITE.

"EXCALIBUR TO MISSION CONTROL, CONFIRMING LAUNCH OF COMM-SAT 2 INTO GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT."

"STEADY AS SHE GOES, EXCALIBUR. THE NETWORKS PAID A PRETTY PENNY TO GET THIS ONE UP THERE!"

USA

"THE ORIGINAL COMM-SAT SUFFERED SUNSPOT DAMAGE, AND REMAINS IN SERVICE ONLY 'TIL #2 IS FUNCTIONAL!"

"I READ YOU, MISSION CONTROL. HER SOLAR PANELS ARE LOCKING INTO PLACE, LOOKING GOOD."

"GLAD TO HEAR IT, EXCALIBUR. PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK, NOW!"

"NOT JUST YET, HOUSTON. WE'VE GOT EXPERIMENTS TO SET UP CONCERNING THE INCREASED SUNSPOT ACTIVITY, FOR THE GUYS AT THE NOAA.*

"YOU KNOW--THE KIND OF STUFF THE NETWORKS USED TO DEVOTE TO PRIME-TIME!

COMM-SAT II

* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

"NOW WE'RE LUCKY TO GET A PAGE-TWENTY MENTION IN THE NEWSPAPERS, HOUSTON!"

GRANT! WE ARE NOT RUNNING A DAY-CARE CENTER HERE!

JOE, I'VE GOT TO GO, BUT YOUR CONCERN IS TOUCHING. ADAM AND I ARE FINE!

'BYE.

PERRY WHITE EDITOR

PERRY, I'M SO SORRY, BUT YOU KNOW HOW LITTLE BOYS ARE!

I KNOW THIS ONE IS SPOILED ROTTEN!

THAT WAS MY EX-HUBBY, JOE MORGAN. HE WANTS TO HIRE A BODY-GUARD FOR ME AND THE LITTLE "MONSTER"!

MAYBE IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. MORGAN EDGE'S TRIAL IS SOON.

HOLD ON, GUS.

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF A STRANGER FOLLOWING ME ALL OVER!

NO SMOKING

GUS, JIMMY OLSEN IS STILL OUT SICK...

GO WITH SHORTELL TO THE POLICE UNION MEETING, OKAY?

HE'S STILL OUT SICK?

CAN'T KEEP COVERING FOR THE KID...

HE'S PROBABLY OFF LOOKING FOR HIS LONG LOST FATHER...

THAT KID *NEVER* KNEW HIS DAD, YET HE 'LL GO ACROSS THE GLOBE TO FIND HIM!

MY SON, JERRY, WON'T GO ACROSS THE *STREET* FOR ME!

WHY COULDN'T *JERRY* HAVE BEEN *MORE* LIKE OLSEN?

WHERE DID ALICE AND I GO WRONG WITH THAT BOY?

PHAUGH!

OLD KR'AAMDYN'S *STILL* GOT THE OLD FORM! YESIREE!

GEEZ, IT DON'T LOOK GOOD FER DRAAGA!

HE'S TAKIN' *QUITE* A POUNDING!

POW

HE TRAVELLED A *LONG* WAY FER NOTHIN'!

I'D BETTER TRY TA COLLECT MY CREDITS BEFORE HE GETS AWAY AGAIN!

OH... ALL RIGHT! ;UNGHNN!; GOT IT! BUT WRENCHED MY SHOULDER...

THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE PROPELLED ME BACK INTO THE HARBOR!

<YOU!" YOU BROUGHT DRAAGA TO EARTH?!>

<I WANT YOU TO *TALK* TO HIM...>

<H-HOMINAH-- UH-HUH!>

<CONVINCE HIM OF THE *FOLLY* OF ALL THIS...>

<...OR ADMINISTER HIM HIS *DEATH-RITES!*>

<NOW LET ME TAKE YOU TO HIM--*EH?*

<UH... *NAH*... I DON'T THINK SO... L-LEMME G-GO ON F-FOOT, PALLY.>

HOW'M *I* GONNA TALK DRAAGA OUTTA THIS? I GOT A *BIIIIIIG* MOUTH!

THERE ; *HUFF* ; BETTER BE A GOOD *TIP* IN ALLA THIS!

SOON AS THE CAMERA GIVES ME A GOOD SHOT OF BOTH OF THEM, I'M READY!

I'LL TELEPORT THEM *HERE*, ONTO MY ROOFTOP...

"THEN I'LL SURROUND THEM BOTH IN FORCE-FIELDS, UNTIL THEY'VE COOLED DOWN."

"COMM-SAT 2 IS READY TO GO ON LINE, HOUSTON."

"BEGINNING THE CHANGEOVER FROM THE EXISTING TO THE NEW EXCALIBUR."

AH! THERE'S MY PICTURE...

LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD...

...BEFORE SOMETHING GOES AWRY!

OR BEFORE THOSE MUSCLE-HEADS DAMAGE LADY LIBERTY!

ZZAK

"I BEAM MY TELE-PORTATION SIGNAL UP AND OFF THE REFLECTOR SATELLITE IN SPACE..."

"...WHERE IT'S NOW TRAVELLING ALONG THE SAME PATH AS THEIR TV SIGNAL..."

"...THE HELICOPTER TRANSMITTER OVER LIBERTY ISLAND..."

"...LEAP-FROGGING IN REVERSE TOWARD ITS ORIGINATING POINT..."

"...AND INTO THE TV CAMERA, WHICH THEN FOCUSES IT ONTO THE COMBATANTS."

"SUPERMAN AND DRAAGA'S MASSES ARE CONVERTED INTO ELECTRON PARTICLES AND REFLECTED BACK INTO THE CAMERA..."

"...BACK ALONG THE TRANSMISSION BEAM TO THE SATELLITE IN SPACE WHERE..."

"NOTHING HAPPENS?"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

PLEASE STAND BY

We are experiencing Technical Difficulties

DEAR LORD, COULD I HAVE MISCALCULATED SOMETHING?

GOOD GOLLY! MY MASS ESTIMATES WERE TOO HIGH...

BUT THE "JUMP" SHOULD STILL HAVE WORKED!

THE BEAM WOULD HAVE TELEPORTED THAT EXTRA MASS AS WELL...

COULD THE SIGNAL HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED?

PLEASE STAND BY

IF SO, WHERE ARE THEY?

"ARE THEIR DEMOLISHED ATOMS FLOATING AROUND IN SPACE SOMEWHERE?"

"HOUSTON, WITH COMM-SAT 2 FULLY OPERATIONAL, WE'D LIKE TO CHECK ON SOME ENERGY DISTURBANCES NEAR THE LUNAR SURFACE."

"SEND US PICTURES, EXCALIBUR, IF YOU FIND ANYTHING UNUSUAL."

WHAT IN HECK JUST HAPPENED?

THOSE TWO ARE GONE AND THEY LOOK HALF OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WITH 'EM!

TV IBS

07501

WHAT AN EERIE SENSATION I FELT BACK THERE! MAYBE ALL THIS EXERTION'S MAKING ME DIZZY?

FUNNY THING -- THESE STAIRS ARE GETTING *EASIER* TO CLIMB.

I SHOULD BE NEAR THE TOP...

FINALLY, :HUFF:, BUT WHERE IS--?

WHAT IN THE NAME OF G'NORT IS MY *RIG* DOING DOWN THERE?

I DOCKED IT ON THE MOON OF SOL-3, THEN USED MY SHUTTLE TO GET TO THE PLANET!

"EXCALIBUR, WE HAVE A REQUEST FOR A FEED TO THE NETWORKS."

"MIND PLAYING CAMERAMAN FOR A LITTLE WHILE?"

WE'VE BEEN TELEPORTED TO THE EARTH'S MOON, I THINK...

I RECOGNIZED THE SENSATION IMMEDIATELY, BUT MY FOE IS DISORIENTED, STILL.

I MUST MAKE MY MOVE...

JULY IV

"NOT AT ALL, HOUSTON. THIS IS PRETTY HOT STUFF! I'M GOING TO MOVE IN CLOSER FOR A BETTER PICTURE."

"WE ARE STILL EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN."

"THIS DELAY IS DUE IN PART TO OUR NETWORK'S SWITCHOVER TO A NEWLY LAUNCHED TELE-COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE."

"WE NOW RESUME OUR BROADCAST FROM LIBERTY ISLAND WHERE--"

"THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER CHANGE -- THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF NASA, WE WILL NOW TAKE YOU LIVE TO THE MOON."

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHUTTLE CREW OF EXCALIBUR FOR THESE PICTURES...

...AND NO, FOLKS, THAT'S NOT TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY-- HALF OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IS INDEED RESTING ON THE MOON...

...REPORTS ARE SKETCHY, BUT WE BELIEVE THE BEING LYING PRONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TELEPORTATION...

...AND THE OTHER ONE IS BELIEVED TO BE METROPOLIS'S MARVEL, SUPERMAN...

HE LOOKS ABOUT READY TO PUT AN END TO THIS BATTLE, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN COVERING LIVE SINCE TEN A.M.!

OH DEAR!

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE REALLY BLOWN IT THIS TIME!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN® #465 AND IN ACTION COMICS® #652

NEXT MONTH, THE EVIL FACTORY UNLEASHES A CLONE OF THE MAN OF STEEL! CAN ANYONE STOP HIM? GUEST STARRING THE GUARDIAN

BLOOD BRAWL

AWRIGHT, SHOOP...; HIC; ...SHOOPERMAN--
--I CAN SMELL THAT KRYPTONIAN HIDE O' YOURS A LIGHT YEAR AWAY AND I KNOW YOU'RE AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE!
SHOW YOURSELF, BUDDY, 'CUZ NOW IT'S FRAGGIN' TIME!
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UH... I DON'T SEE NOBODY, MR. LOBO! YOU SURE MY PAL SOOPERMAN IS S'POSED TA BE HERE?

I MEAN, DIS IS DA SOUTH POLE, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

IF LOBO SAY SUPERMAN HERE, HE HERE.

LOBO BEST ASSASSIN IN UNIVERSE. IF LOBO SAY SOMETHING--

-- IT TRUE.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

AND I SAY THAT SUPER DUDE IS CLOSE.

REAL CLOSE.

DESE GLASSES YOU GAVE ME'RE REALLY SLICK... BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE SOOPERMAN!

HE'S MY FAV'RIT, Y'KNOW.

THOSE AREN'T GLASSES, BIBBO, THEY'RE VIDEO RECORDERS! AND THEY'LL TAPE *EVERYTHING* YOU SEE!

NOW, WHERE IS HE? I CAN SENSE HIS KRYPTONIAN PRESENCE--

-- BUT WHY CAN'T I SEE HIM?

UNLESS...

BOY, DIS OKARAN BERRY JUICE YOU GUYS BRUNG SURE GOES DOWN SMOOTH!

THERE'S PROBABLY A CAVE A FEW HUNDRED METERS DOWN, RAOF! TELEPORT DOWN THERE AND CHECK IT OUT!

NO! IF NOT CAVE BUT SOLID ROCK-- RAOF DIE!

YOU REMEMBER WHAT MY NAME MEANS IN KHUND DI... HIC... DIALECT?

LOBO MEAN "HE WHO DEVOURS YOUR ENTRAILS AND THOROUGHLY ENJOY IT!"

RAOF TAKE HIS CHANCES WITH ROCK.

RIIIGHT.

IF YOU DON'T COME BACK, WE'LL DRINK A TOAST IN YOUR HONOR.

GIMME THAT BAG O' HOOCH, BIBBO!

FLOOP

METROPOLIS.

NO MATTER WHAT I DO LATELY, IT SEEMS LIKE MY LIFE IS GETTING MORE AND MORE COMPLEX.

I FELT OBLIGATED TO PLEASE MA AND PA BY SPENDING LAST NIGHT IN SMALLVILLE--

--BUT I FORGOT I HAD TO COVER AN EARLY MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE HERE.

MOST PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME MANAGING *ONE* LIFE...

...I HAVE *TWO* TO WORRY ABOUT!

A RATHER ILLOGICAL CONCEPT, I SUPPOSE.

THIS PAST YEAR MY LIVES AS CLARK KENT *AND* AS SUPERMAN HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONFLICT.

ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS EXILED IN SPACE.

HAVE I ARRIVED AT A POINT WHERE I CAN'T BE BOTH HUMAN AND KRYPTONIAN?

IS IT TIME FOR *SOMETHING* TO GIVE?

CLARK, IS THAT YOU?

HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE, MR. MANAGING EDITOR! I MUST SAY--

--IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE THE NEW JOB IS TREATING YOU WELL!

LOIS--YOU LOOK NICE, TOO. WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING AT THE PLANET?

TELL YOU WHAT. WHY NOT COME OVER TO MY PLACE FOR A SPECIAL HOME-COOKED MEAL TOMORROW NIGHT--

--AND I'LL BRING YOU UP TO DATE!

THANK YOU, BUT NO, LOIS.

I SEE NO REASON FOR US TO SOCIALIZE NOW THAT WE ARE NO LONGER COLLEAGUES.

OH.

WELL.

SEE YOU AROUND, MR. KENT.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I *FINALLY* TRIED TO REACH OUT TO CLARK AND HE REJECTED ME! BIG MISTAKE, LANE--*BIG* MISTAKE!

NOW WHY IS SHE GETTING SO... *EMOTIONAL*? SHE ALMOST SEEMS UPSET FOR SOME REASON!

I WONDER IF--

ARRGH! MY HEAD-- MY *MIND*!

VISIONS... OF THREE PEOPLE... *INVADERS*--

--AT MY PLACE IN THE ANTARCTIC!

I CANNOT... *WILL NOT* ALLOW THIS TRANSGRESSION!

I'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT OF THERE!

ONCE AGAIN IT APPEARS CLARK KENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO--

--SUPERMA--! HUH?

FLOYD'S BARBER SHOP

DID I JUST IMAGINE THAT-- OR IS THERE SOMETHING *MORE* HAPPENING HERE?

NO TIME TO WORRY NOW--I'VE GOT TO GET TO MY KRYPTONIAN FORTRESS!

SPACE.

DEEP, DEEP SPACE.

SO'S I TELL HER, "ONE OF THESE DAYS A'LISS--WHAM!

"YOU'RE GOIN' TO A MOON!" AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DRAAGA?

THAT LIL'GAL O'MINE HID MY BALL GLOVES ANYWAY!

EVEN AT THAT-- MY BABY, SHE'S THE FREEGEST!

K'RAAMDYN, I CARE LITTLE ABOUT YOUR MATE AND EVEN LESS ABOUT YOUR METCHIN BALL GLOVES!

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS GETTING TO EARTH AND FINDING THE KRYPTONIAN!

WELL, WE'RE RUNNIN' FULL BORE, SO--

BY THE GREAT SPIRAL NEBULA! WE GOT TROUBLE!

ZEEP ZEEP ZEEP

BAD?

SENSOR ALARM! THERE'S A CLASS AA STAR CRUISER BEARING DOWN ON US FAST! IF ITS DEFLECTOR SHIELDS EVEN NICK US--

--WE'RE GONERS!

THEN TAKE EVASIVE ACTION, FOOL!

I AM, I AM!

HOMINAH HOMINAH HOMINAH

PULL UP! WE'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR THAT ASTEROID!

I CAN'T--OUR STABILIZERS HAVE BURNED OUT!

HANG ONNNNNN!

BOY, I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT WAS, BUT THEY SURE WERE IN ONE BIG HURRY! LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE HEADED TO EARTH, TOO.

PASSED ONCE AGAIN? WILL I EVER FIND MY WAY TO THAT INFERNAL PLANET?

IT'S GONNA BE A WHILE, BUD. I GOTTA FIX OUR NUCLEAR TRANSITRON FIRST!

DO WHAT YOU MUST K'RAAMDYN--

--BUT DO IT *FAST*! I WILL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR WORK.

I KNOW ONLY ONE GOAL--I MUST FIND SUPERMAN AND BATTLE HIM IN HIS OWN DEN--IN FRONT OF HIS OWN PEOPLE!

I *WILL* REGAIN MY HONOR!

SUPERMAN DEFEATED ME IN MONGUL'S GREAT ARENA AND REFUSED TO GRANT ME A TRUE WARRIOR'S DEATH! AND IN SO DOING--

WAIT--WHAT'S THAT AHEAD?

NOOOO!

MUST THE ACCURSED KRYPTONIAN'S LEGACY FOLLOW ME EVERYWHERE?

THE GODS TORMENT ME BY LEAVING ME HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ASTEROID FIELD--

--WHERE THE SYMBOL OF MY CONQUEROR *MOCKS* ME!

MIGHTY DRAAGA LIVES A LIFE OF *SHAME*!

BUT I WILL SEEK OUT AND DESTROY THE KRYPTONIAN! AND ONCE I DO--

--MY HONOR WILL BE *VINDICATED*!

OKARAN BERRY JUICE ALMOST GONE.

RAOF GO GET M... :HIC: ...MORE

SO, DIS IS SOOPERMAN'S HOUSE, HUH? WHERE D'YA S'POSE ALL THEM DANCIN' GIRLS IS AT?

FORGET IT, RAOFFY! THE WAY YOU PUT IT AWAY, YOU'D CAMP OUT IN THE BAR AND *NEVER* COME BACK!

I MEAN, THERE JUST GOTS TO BE *DANCIN'* GIRLS HERE!

HEY, MR. LOBO-- SMILE FER DA CAMERA!

GET OUTTA MY FACE, YO-YO! IF I DIDN'T NEED YOU TO BE AN IMPARTIAL WITNESS, I'D *FRAG* YOUR KEESTER, TOO!

:URP: OOOO, RAOF NOT FEEL GOOD.

RAOF DRINK TOO MUCH.

ALL OF YOU...

...GET OUT.

NOW!

HEY, PAL, HOW YA DOIN'? WE WOULDA RUNG YOUR DOORBELL BUT WE COULDN'T FIND IT!

LOOKIT THESE KEEN VIDEO GLASSES MY BUDDY LOBO GAVE ME!

"LOBO" LIKE THE WOLF, BIBBO?

:HIC: NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW.

IT'S PURTY GROSS.

YOUR BREATH-- YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN DRINKING!

YEP! WANT A SWIG?

HARDLY.

FEETAL'S GIZZ, YOU MEAN *THIS* IS SUPERMAN?

HE DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME--HE DOESN'T EVEN WEAR ARMOR!

IN FACT, FOR A GUY WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE STRONGEST DUDE THIS SIDE OF THE KHUND EMPIRE--

--YOU LOOK LIKE A FIRST DEGREE *WIMP*!

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DRUNKS ARE STORMING THROUGH THIS PLACE, BUT IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL TAKE OFF NOW!

NOW, THAT'S WHERE WE HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM. Y'SEE, I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO.

AND WHAT I DO IS *KILL*!

AND YOU'RE MY NEXT TARGET, JACK.

LOOK, PAL--

--YOU PULL YOUR ARM BACK TO HIT ME AND I'LL TURN YOUR LIGHTS OUT *BEFORE* YOU CAN EVEN THROW THE PUNCH!

OH.

OH, MY.

MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO RECONSIDER HITTING YOU--

--AND *KICK* THOSE BLASTED WHITE TEETH DOWN YOUR THROAT INSTEAD!

KRAK

SHEEESH!

GIMME THAT BERRY JUICE, YO-YO! AIN'T GONNA TAKE LONG AT ALL TO *FRAG* THIS WEENIE!

GEE, MAYBE YOU REALLY IS TOUGHER THAN SOOPERMAN!

BOY, YOU SURE GOT THAT RIGHT, YO-YO!

THAT'S BIBBO.

ANYWAY, IT'S BE ...HIC!... BEYOND ME WHY EVERY TOUGH GUY IN THE UNIVERSE IS AFRAID OF THIS GUY!

OKAY, I ASKED YOU GUYS ONCE, *NICELY*--THIS TIME: I'M *TELLING* YOU...

GET OUT OF MY PLACE... *NOW!*

POW

ATTAWAY, PAL!

ALLLLLRIGHT! ABOUT TIME THIS STUFFED SHIRT SHOWED SOME LIFE!

SO NOW THAT YOU REALIZE YOU CAN'T KILL ME, WHY NOT LEAVE BEFORE YOU HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT?

CAN'T KILL YOU? GIMME A BREAK, BLUE!

-!URP!... S'CUSE RAOF.

I'M *LOBO*, MAN! WHEN THE MEANEST, BADDEST SUCKERS IN THE GALAXY NEED SOMEONE OFFED--

--THEY CALL *ME!*

WHEN THE KHUNDS NEED A PLANET'S LEADER KNOCKED OFF BEFORE THEY INVADE... THEY CALL ME!

WHEN DARKSEID NEEDS SOMEONE ASSASSINATED ...YOU KNOW WHO HE CALLS?

...AMAZING GRACE...?

OOO, I'M GONNA LOVE MAKIN' YOU PAY FOR THAT ONE.

PAK
CHOK
KRAK

OTHER INFERIOR BRAND ASSASSINS USE GUNS, LASERS AND BOMBS ON THEIR PREY BUT NOT ME, KIDDO!

I USE MY *HANDS*! DIRTY WORK, SURE--

-- BUT SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT! AND THIS WAY--

--I GET THE *PERSONAL* SATISFACTION OF A JOB WELL DONE!

YOU'RE SICK!

YEAH, AND YOU'RE A BIG *NOTHING*! YOU MUST HAVE ONE GOOD P.R. GUY TO HAVE GOTTEN THE REP YOU GOT!

SLAM

KRAK

UHN! LOBO'S SO QUICK--STRONG--NO TIME TO REACT!

CAN'T TAKE-- MUCH MORE...

SURE, YOU GOT YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH AND ALL--

--BUT I'M A STREET FIGHTER! WHILE YOU FIGHT LIKE A BUTLER, I DUKE IT OUT LIKE A *MAD DOG*!

FACE IT, SUPES-- YOU'RE AS GOOD AS *DEAD*!

KBAMM

NEED-- HELP!

SLAM

KRAKABOOM

FEETAL'S GI--

SMALLVILLE, KANSAS.

Phoebe's DRESS SHOP

NOW REMEMBER, JONATHAN, I EXPECT YOU TO WEAR YOUR BEST POKER-FACE SO'S LANA DOESN'T CATCH ON!

NOT TO WORRY, MARTHA! OPERATION "SMOOTH-OVER" WILL DEFINITELY SUCCEED!

SAY, LOOK OVER THERE! ISN'T THAT MISS AMERICA BEHIND THE COUNTER?

WHY, GRACIOUS, JONATHAN I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT!

JONATHAN... MARTHA ...WHAT BRINGS THE KENTS TO TOWN? I EXPECTED YOU'D BE SPENDING THE DAY WITH CLARK!

SALE

HE HAD TO GET BACK TO METROPOLIS, LANA, BUT HE LEFT THIS PRESENT FOR YOU BEFORE HE FLEW OFF!

THANKS, BUT LET'S BE HONEST HERE.

THE WAY CLARK WAS ACTING LAST NIGHT THERE'S NO WAY HE WENT OUT AND BOUGHT THIS!

YOU TWO ARE COVERING FOR HIM, AREN'T YOU?

WELL...

I DO APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, THOUGH.

Petites

I ♡ METROPOLIS

I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT CLARK FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY. FORGETTING ME IS ONE OF HIS SPECIALTIES.

LANA, CLARK DOES CARE FOR YOU!

THEN WHY DOES HE ONLY COME TO SEE ME WHEN SUPERMAN NEEDS A PSYCHOLOGIST TO UNLOAD ON?

BECAUSE OF SUPERMAN I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY LUTHOR, BRAINWASHED BY ALIENS, HOSPITALIZED BY MATRIX... AND TO TOP THAT ALL OFF--

--CLARK IGNORES MY BIRTHDAY! I DON'T KNOW WHY I STAND HERE AND LET HIM DO THAT TO ME!

MAYBE... MAYBE IT'S TIME I LEAVE SMALLVILLE--

--AND PUT CLARK KENT AND HIS SECRET BEHIND ME FOREVER!

LANA--

"--I KNOW CLARK SEEMS COLDER THESE DAYS. MAYBE IT'S JUST HIS NEW JOB WITH NEWSTIME MAGAZINE!"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KENT "SKIPPED OUT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE"?

EVIDENTLY SO, MR. THORNTON. ACCORDING TO THE PHOTO CREW HE HAD A SPAT WITH LOIS LANE AND *SPLIT*!

DAMN! WE CAN ALWAYS ACQUIRE A TRANSCRIPT--

--BUT KENT SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE ASKING QUESTIONS AND CREATING A VISIBLE PRESENCE FOR NEWSTIME!

I EXPECTED A HIGHER DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM THAN THIS. KENT'S BEHAVIOR OF LATE HAS BEEN UN-ACCEPTABLY ERRACTIC.

--SO I'LL HAVE TO KEEP A CLOSER EYE ON HIM!

THORNTON, WE'VE GOTTA TALK!

YOUR NEW BOY, KENT, JUST FIRED ME AFTER THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE HERE AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY!

NOW HOLD ON, OSCAR-- THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF THIS!

LOOK, COLLIN, I WAS THERE WHEN YOUR FATHER STARTED THIS MAGAZINE!

WHY, I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU STARTED WORKING AS A COPY BOY!

AND NOW YOUR NEW *HATCHET-MAN* TELLS ME I DON'T HAVE THE "PROPER VISION" FOR NEWSTIME'S FUTURE!

REST ASSURED THAT AS LONG AS I'M HERE YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE A JOB, OSCAR. AS FOR YOU, MARA--

--FIND KENT!

YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY, MR. THORNTON!

"AND IF HE'S JUST OUT HAVING A GOOD TIME SOMEWHERE, TELL HIM NOT TO BOTHER COMING BACK!"

GEE, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAV'RIT? HE AIN'T DEAD, IS HE?

UH-UH! THE LUCKY DOG SLIPPED AWAY WHEN THE CEILING COLLAPSED!

SO YOU COULDN'T FINISH HIM, HUH? I TOLDJA SOOPERMAN WUZ TOUGHER THAN YOU!

OH, YEAH? WELL, FOLLOW ME, YO-YO, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S GONNA BE *FINISHED OFF!*

TH' NAME'S *BIBBO!*

URP HIC

BUDDIES GO ...HIC... GO WITHOUT RAOF.

RAOF GOING TO SLEEP NOW.

THUD

HEY, SHOULDN'T WE WAKE THE LIL' GUY UP?

WHY BOTHER? HE JUST "FLOOPS" ALL OVER THE PLACE WHEN HE'S HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!

AND YOU *KNOW* HOW BAD THIS PLACE WOULD SMELL THEN!

WOW, LOBO, WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? ARE WE GOING OUTSIDE?

NO--WERE HEADIN' FOR SOME KIND OF HOLOGRAPH ROOM! REMINDS ME OF OLD VID-IMAGES. I'VE SEEN OF KRYPTON!

LOOK OVER THERE-- I ACTUALLY SEE THF SUCKER!

YEE-HAHHHH!

YOU WANT ME, LOBO?

THEN COME AND GET ME!

SLAMM

HEY, I DON'T GET IT! LOOKS LIKE THE SKY GOES ON FEREVER BUT DERE'S REALLY A *WALL* HERE!

IT'S A PROJECTION, MORON! AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I FELL FOR IT!

HMM... MUST BE SOMETHIN' WRONG WITH ME...

I AM FEELIN' SORTA DIZZY... AND NOW ONLY ONE THING'LL CLEAR UP THIS FOG.

I GET MY HANDS ON SUPERMAN, TEAR HIS EYES OUT AND FEED HIS HEART TO THE WOLVES!

THAT CHUMP IS DEAD!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, LOBO...

...SOOOPERMAN'S WAY TOO TOUGH TA JUST LIE DOWN FER YA!

BRAKAMM

KRAAAAH

I MIGHT NOT BE CAPABLE OF OUT-BRAWLING YOU, LOBO--

--BUT IT'S CLEAR TO ME EVEN BIBBO CAN OUTSMART YOU!

!UHN!

DUH.., T'ANKS, SOOPERMAN.

THAT *CUTS IT.* NO ONE INSULTS ME! I'M GONNA GUT YOU WITH YOUR OWN-- HUH?

HOLOGRAM.

OKAY, SO NONE OF THIS JUNK IS REAL! BUT THIS FLOOR IS SOLID ENOUGH--

--SO I'LL JUST USE THAT TO *FRAG* YA!

WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, LOBO!

I'VE GOT A FEW WEAPONS OF MY OWN!

YOU THINK A LITTLE HEAT IS GONNA BOTHER ME?

I'M LOBO--

--I RIDE THROUGH THE COLD OF SPACE AND THE HEAT OF BLAZING SUNS!

AND NO CANDY-CANE WIMP LIKE YOU IS GONNA *FRY* ME!

AND YOU'RE NOTHING BUT HOT AIR--KILLING ME DOESN'T EVEN MAKE ANY SENSE!

SURE IT DOES! YOU GOT A HOT REP FOR TRASHIN' DRAAGGA--

-- AND SOME GUYS BET ME THAT I COULDN'T KILL YOU!

THE BEST THING AN ASSASSIN HAS GOIN' IS HIS REP AND I DON'T NEED YOU STEALING MY THUNDER!

YOU MUSTA CUT THE PROJECTION SYSTEM ON THAT ONE, BUB--YOUR FRIENDS BACK THERE ARE GOIN' UP IN SMOKE!

I'VE-- HAD IT-- WITH YOU!

YEAH? WATCHA GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

ZIP-- THAT'S WHAT!

PAKA-PAKA PAKA-PAKA

YOU'RE GONNA DO ABSOLUTELY ZIP WHILE I POUND YOU INTO TOMATO PASTE!

:UHN: HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS ROOM! IF HE FINDS OUT--

HEY, SUPERWIMP, WHAT'S GOIN' ON? SOMETHING'S BUGGING YOU BAD-- I CAN FEEL IT!

WHY YOU LOOKIN' AT THAT WALL WITH FEAR IN YOUR EYES?

SOMETHING BEHIND IT, MAYBE?

HE'S GOING TO FIND IT! HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE CAN USE IT ON ME!

HEY, HEY, HEY! WHATEVER'S BACK THERE MUST BE PRETTY GOOD TO SEND YOU SCURRYING LIKE THAT!

FEETAL'S GIZZ! FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT SEAM, THAT CHUNK OF ICE OUGHTA SLIDE RIGHT OUT OF THERE!

NOW, WHADDAYA SUPPOSE IS IN THAT CANISTER? THE FAMILY JEWELS, MAYBE?

THE WAY IT WAS HID, IT'S GOTTA MEAN SOMETHING TO THAT OVER DRESSED DO-GOODER!

SHAY, LOBOBO-- GLAD I FINALLY F...HIC!...FOUND YOU!

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH ME ALL THE WAY! IF YOU MISSED FILMING ANYTHING CRITICAL--

--I'LL NAIL YOUR TONGUE TO THE FLOOR!

SHORRY L...HIC!...LOBO GOT DRINGKIN' DIS JOOSH AGAIN!

SHURE WISHED THEY SELLED DIS ON EARTH!

GIMME THAT HOOCH!

IF YOU GUYS HAVE EMPTIED THIS SKIN, I'LL STAPLE YOUR LIPS SHUT!

MMM, THA'S GOOD ...HIC!

TOO BAD ISH GONE!

WAKE UP, RAOFY! YOU GOTTA GET USH TO DA SHURFISH!

OOO HIC!! RAOF TRY.

AWW, GEE...

OOO...HIC! ...OH...

WAY TO GO, RAOFY!

PHEW! SHMELL IS GONNA MAKE ME SHICK!

FLOOP

SHOOPERGUY RAN AWAY BUD I'M GOANNA FIND HIM! 'N WHEN I DO...

YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR, LOBO--

--BECAUSE YOU AND I ARE GOING TO FINISH THIS NOW!

HAW HAWW! LOOKSH LIKE YA HADDA GET S...; HIC;... SHUM ARMOR AFTER ALL, CHUMP!

HEY, YOU KNOW SHUMTHIN', LOBO? I AIN'T TOO SURRRE--

-- BUT I T'INK DAT'S SHOOOPERMAN INSIDE DAT T'ING!

INDEED, BIBBO. LOBO'S TOUGH -- ALMOST MANIACAL IN HIS INTENSITY TO FIGHT!

A MOVE NECESSITATED BY HIS DISCOVERY OF MY KRYPTONITE.

THAT IS THE KRYPTONIAN WAY!

YOU THINK SHUM STOOPID ...; HIC;... TIN SUIT IS GOONA SHTOP ME?

LOGIC DICTATED I DON THIS ANCIENT, TELEPATHICALLY CONTROLLED, KRYPTONIAN WARSUIT!

THE STAKES ARE HIGH! SCIENCE *MUST* PREVAIL OVER HIS BARBARISM!

WRONGO, JACK! I'M *LOBO* AND I'M THE BESHT THERE IS AT WHAT I DO--

--WHICH IS *KILLIN'*...

...AN' STUFF!

;NNG; THIS WARSUIT BLOCKS *SOME* OF THE KRYPTONITE RADIATION BUT NOT ALL OF IT!

AND IF YOU RUN AWAY AGAIN I'LL SHNIFF OUT YOUR KRYPTONIAN BUTT JUSHT LIKE I DID WHEN I FOUND YOU HERE!

BUT I WASN'T EVEN HERE WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED! UNLESS...

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT LOBO SENSED THE ERADICATOR?

IN HIS DRUNKEN STATE HE MAY HAVE CONFUSED ITS KRYPTONIAN AURA FOR MINE!

GEE--MAYBE SHOOPERMAN AIN'T SO...; HIC; ... TOUGH AS I FIGGERED! I NEVER *CHEATED* BY WEARIN' NO ARMOR IN DA RING!

RAOF THIRSTY. RAOF HUNGRY. RAOF *C-C-COLD.*

RAOF WANT TO GO!

NUTHIN' PERSHONAL 'BOUT FRAGGIN' YA, BIG BLUE!

BUT IF I LOSHT THE BET BY LETTIN' YOU BEAT ME, I MIGHT HAFTA CUT MY RATES!

THAT KRYPTONITE IS REALLY STARTING TO WEAR ME DOWN! TIME TO MOVE THINGS ALONG--

--BEFORE I COMPLETELY LOSE THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THIS SUIT!

HAVE TO BE CERTAIN THAT I PUSH HIM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

AWP!

HAW HAWW! BIG MISHTAKE, PAL! YOU JUSHT KNOCKED ME RIGHT WHERE YOU DON'T WAN ME TA BE!

NO SH-SHELF RESHPECTIN' ASHASHIN WOULD GO ON A JOB WIDDOUT A WELL-ARMED SHPACE CYC... ;HIC;...LE!

HEY, WHERE CAN I GET ONE O' THOSE?

SKOOM

NOW, HURRY UP 'N *DIE* SHO I CAN GET BACK T'THE BAR AND COLLECT!

BRAMM

KABOOOM

YEP, WINNIN' ALWAYSH FEELSH GOOD.

H-H-H-HE'S *DEAD!*

YA...;HIC;...*KILLED SHOOPERMAN!*

DAT MEANS YER REALLY *TOUGHER*

AND YA KNOW WHAT ELSE DAT MEANS?

Y'RE MY...;HIC;... *NEW* FAV'RIT! I GOTTA GET A NEW "T"-SHIRT MADE!

LOVE IT, BABE!

LET'SH DO LUNCH!

IN...? HIC?... FACT, MAYBE WE OUGHTA FIND ANUDDER ...? HIC?--

SAY...GOOD THINKIN', LOBO! MAYBE A LIDDLE NAP--

--BARRRRR...

--IS JUSHT WHAT DA DOC ORDERRRR...

LOBO TOO DRUNK TO DRIVE--

--RAOF HAVE TO "FLOOP" US AWAY.

HMM... RAOF WONDERS IF RAOF CAN FIND GOOD OKARRAN BREWERY?

RAOF TRY!

FLOOP

"GOOD.

"THE INSTIGATORS HAVE FINALLY LEFT. AND SCIENCE--

"--HAS ONCE AGAIN TRIUMPHED OVER RAW, BRUTE FORCE."

I COULD HAVE EXPECTED NO LESS.

AS WASTED AS LOBO WAS, IT WAS EASY TO CONCLUDE THAT TRICKERY MIGHT PROVE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN FIGHTING.

I BARELY HAD THE TIME NECESSARY TO RIG A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR INTO THE WARSUIT'S COMPUTER AND CREATE THE IMAGE OF A "DEAD" SUPERMAN.

STRANGE. I NEVER KNEW I HAD THE SKILL TO RUN THE WARSUIT, MUCH LESS CREATE A HOLOGRAM!

SO HOW DID I DO IT?

HOW?

FOUR EARTH DAYS, THIRTY-ONE BARS, SEVEN BREWERIES, NINE ARREST ATTEMPTS AND SIXTY-TWO CASUALTIES LATER...

I'M BAAAACK!

YAWP-- RUN! IT'S LOBO!

SHAYYY... YOU BOYSH 'MIND ME O' MY PETS! NISHE TO MEETCHA!

WELCOME BACK, FRIEND LOBO. HOW DID YOU FARE IN OUR WAGER?

DID YOU KILL THE SUPERMAN?

KILL WHO? I DON' 'MEMBER YOU GUYSH ORA... HIC...WAGER!

HE STILL CARRIES THE PICTO-RECORDER WE GAVE HIM. LET US VIEW IT TO SEE WHAT TRANSPIRED.

I WUZ WONNERIN' WAT DAT SHTUFF WUZ FOR!

IT APPEARS LOBO REMEMBERS NOTHING OF US OR HIS TIME ON EARTH!

EARTH? I WUZ...HIC... ON EARTH? HMM... IMAGINE THAT...

THIS DEVICE LIKELY RECORDED HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE SUPERMAN.

SHOOPERMAN?! WHO HE?

OOO... IS DIS SOOPERMAN'S HOUSE?

OOO... MAYBE SOOPERMAN AIN'T SO TOUGH!

MORE OKARRAN BERRY JOOSH, BARKEEP!

THE IMPARTIAL OBSERVER REVERSED THE OPTICS ON THE RECORDER AND CAPTURED HIS REACTIONS RATHER THAN THE ENCOUNTER!

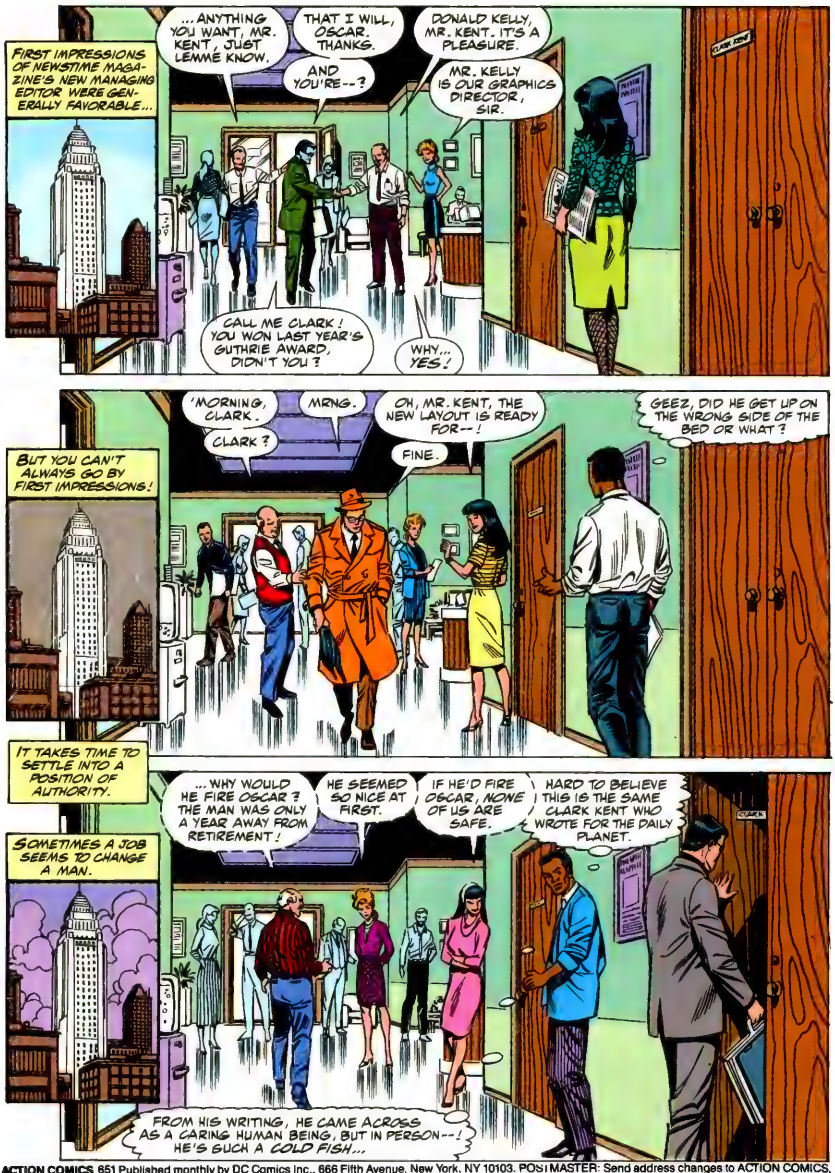
EVERYONE KNOWS OKARRAN BERRY JUICE CAN CAUSE MEMORY LOSS--AND WE'VE HAD NO WORD OF THE SUPERMAN'S DEATH!

SHOOPERMAN... SHOOPERMAN... AIN'T HE A BARTENDER ON OMEGA IV?

NEXT: IN ACTION COMICS #651 MAXIMA RETURNS!

NEXT: IN SUPERMAN #42 DRAAGA RETURNS!

NEXT: IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #465 KAL-EL RETURNS! (HUH?) BE HERE!


FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF NEWSTIME MAGAZINE'S NEW MANAGING EDITOR WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE...
... ANYTHING YOU WANT, MR. KENT. JUST LEMME KNOW.
THAT I WILL, OSCAR. THANKS.
AND YOU'RE--?
DONALD KELLY, MR. KENT. IT'S A PLEASURE.
MR. KELLY IS OUR GRAPHICS DIRECTOR, SIR.
CLARK KENT
CALL ME CLARK! YOU WON LAST YEAR'S GUTHRIE AWARD, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY... YES!
BUT YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GO BY FIRST IMPRESSIONS!
'MORNING, CLARK.
CLARK?
MRNG.
OH, MR. KENT, THE NEW LAYOUT IS READY FOR--!
FINE.
GEEZ, DID HE GET UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED OR WHAT?
IT TAKES TIME TO SETTLE INTO A POSITION OF AUTHORITY.
SOMETIMES A JOB SEEMS TO CHANGE A MAN.
... WHY WOULD HE FIRE OSCAR? THE MAN WAS ONLY A YEAR AWAY FROM RETIREMENT!
HE SEEMED SO NICE AT FIRST.
IF HE'D FIRE OSCAR, NONE OF US ARE SAFE.
HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS THE SAME CLARK KENT WHO WROTE FOR THE DAILY PLANET.
CLARK
FROM HIS WRITING, HE CAME ACROSS AS A CARING HUMAN BEING, BUT IN PERSON--! HE'S SUCH A COLD FISH...

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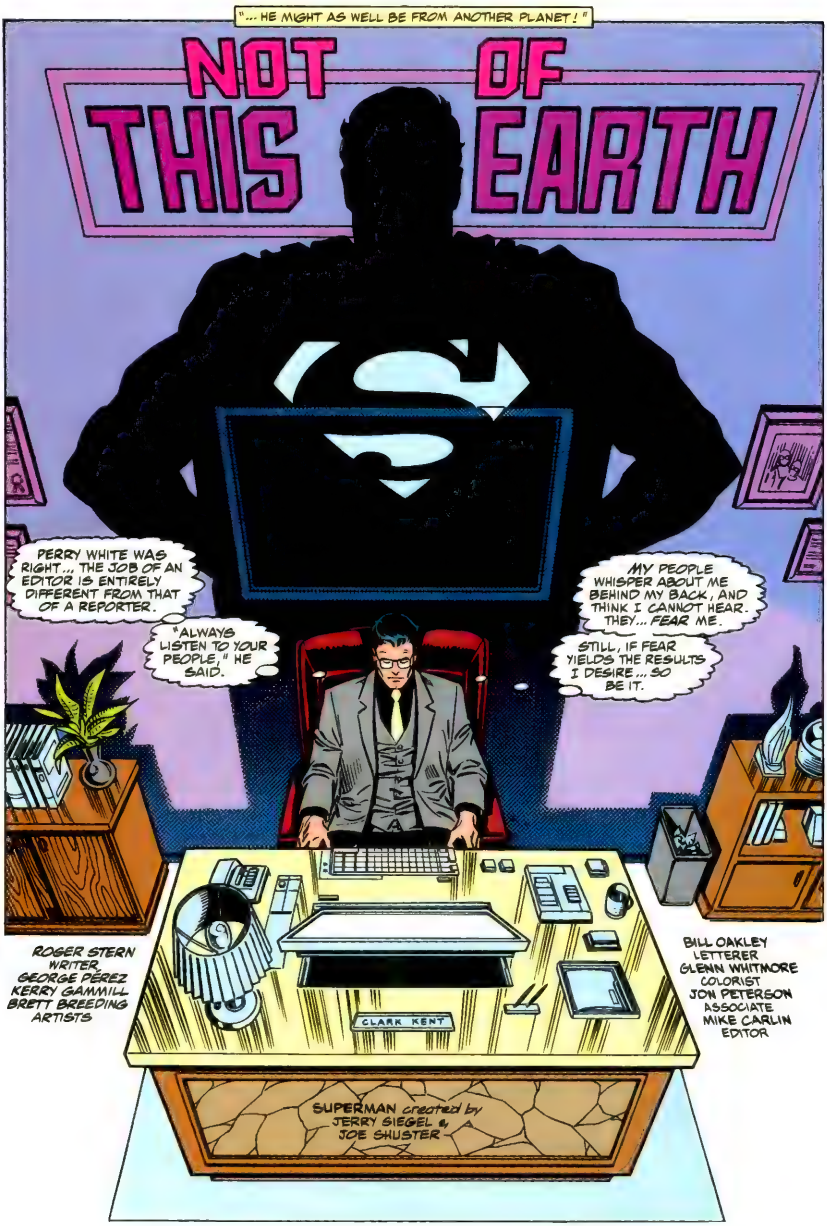
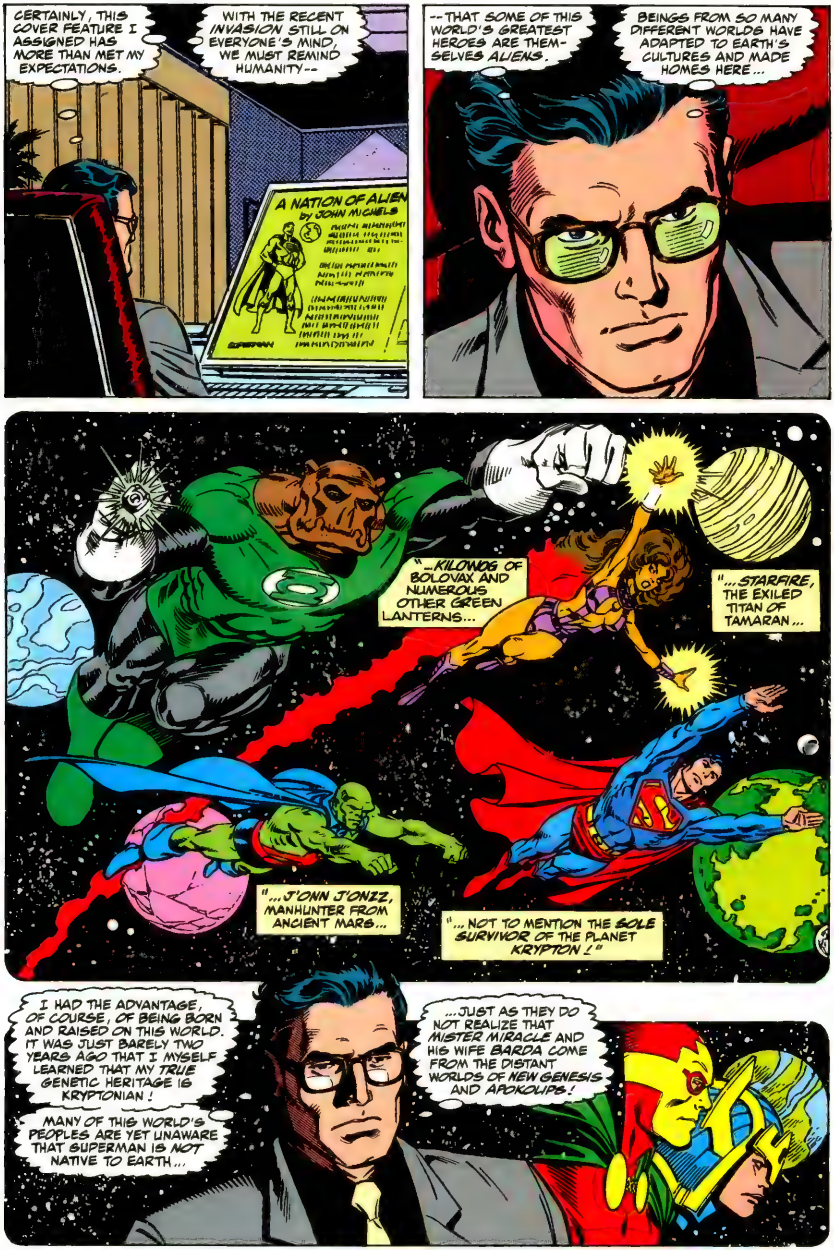
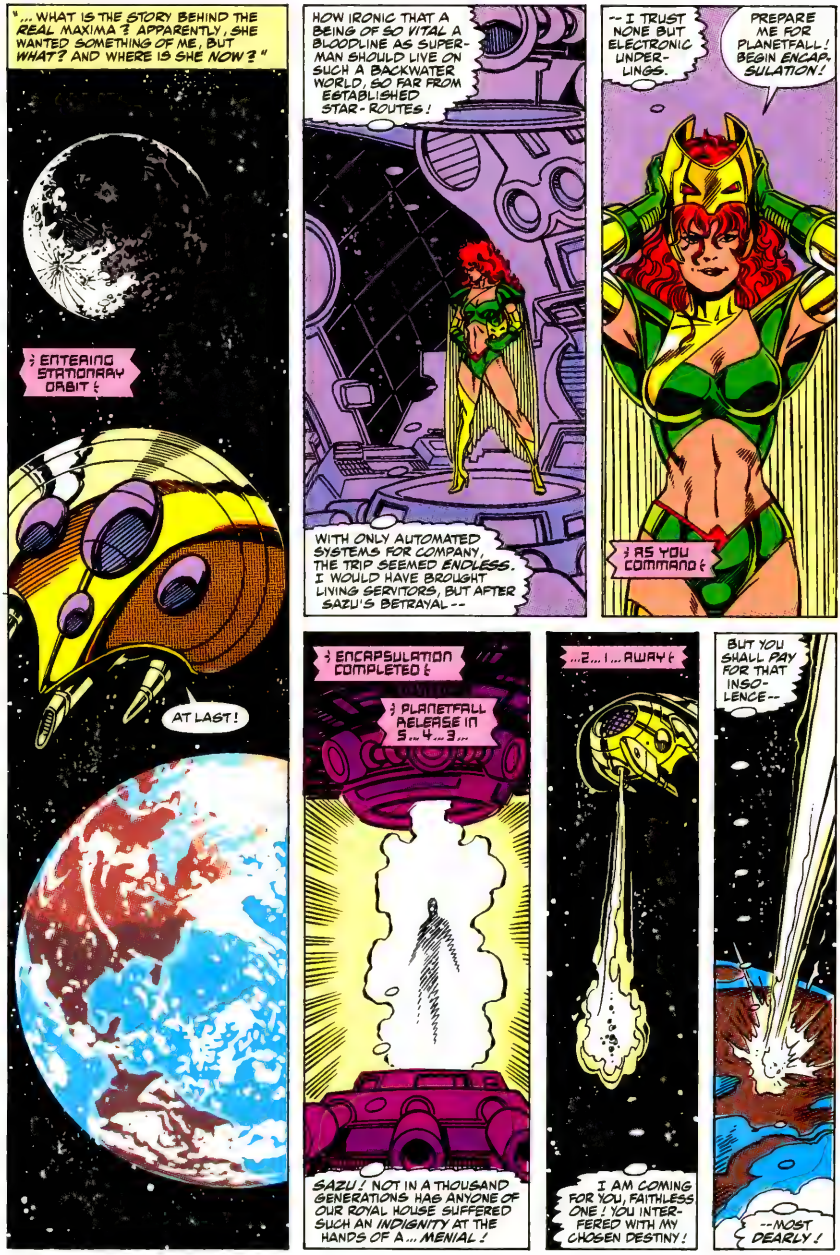
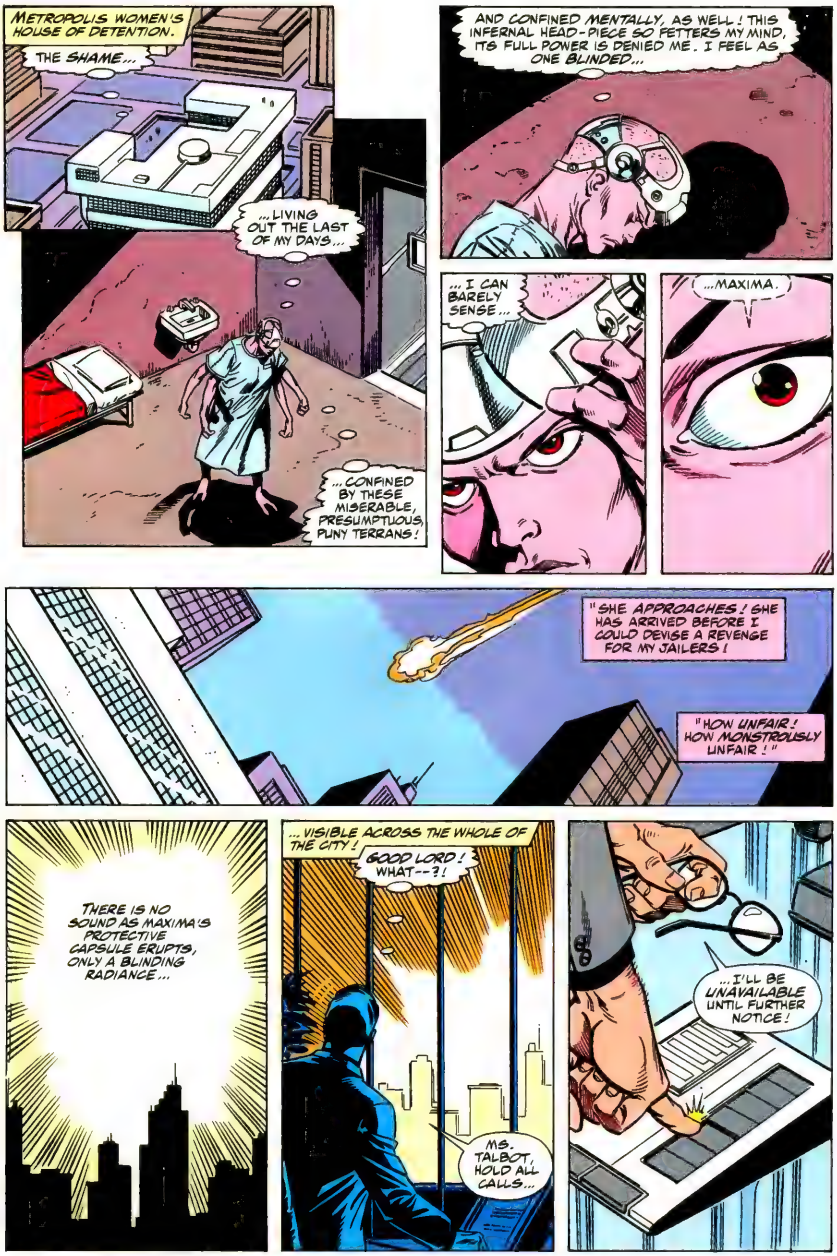
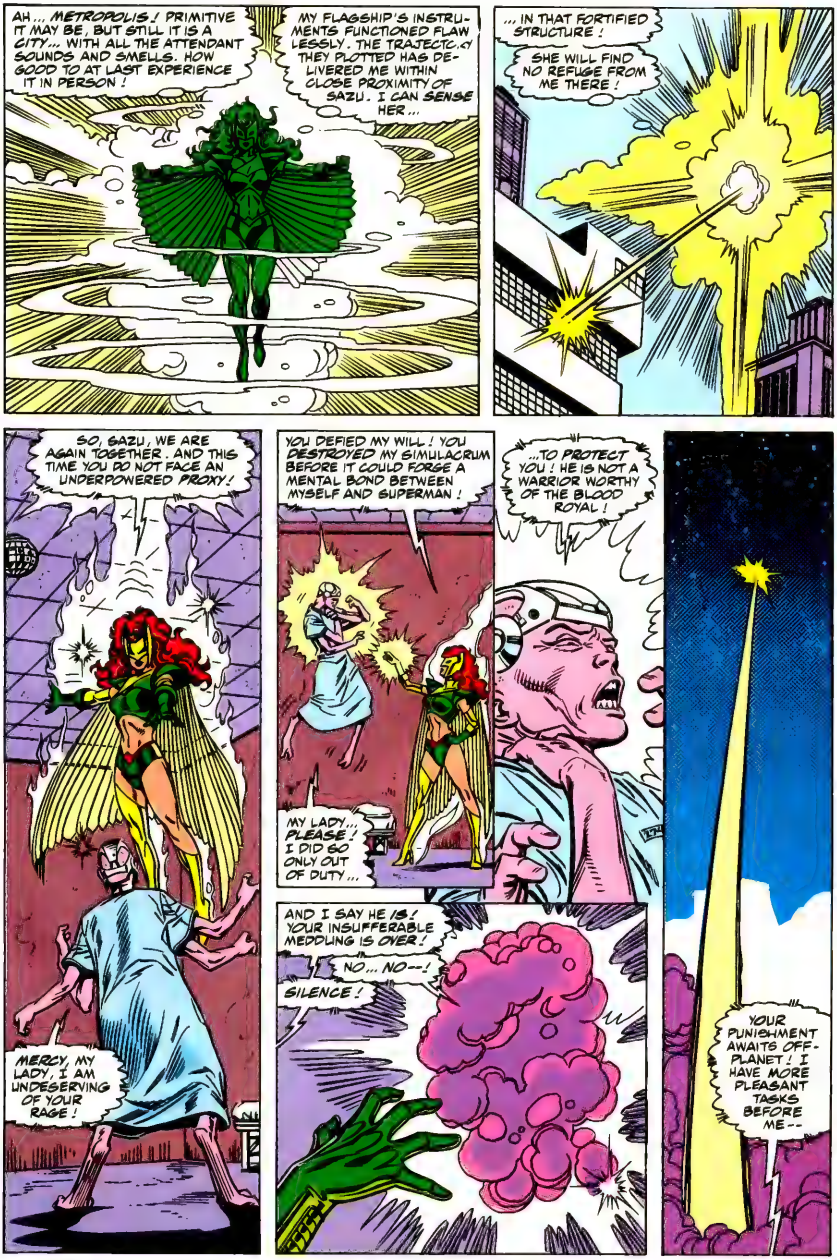

"... HE MIGHT AS WELL BE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!"
NOT OF THIS EARTH
PERRY WHITE WAS RIGHT... THE JOB OF AN EDITOR IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A REPORTER.
"ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR PEOPLE," HE SAID.
MY PEOPLE WHISPER ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK, AND THINK I CANNOT HEAR. THEY... FEAR ME.
STILL, IF FEAR YIELDS THE RESULTS I DESIRE... SO BE IT.
CLARK KENT
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
ROGER STERN WRITER
GEORGE PÉREZ
KERRY GAMMILL
BRETT BREEDING ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST
JON PETERSON ASSOCIATE
MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

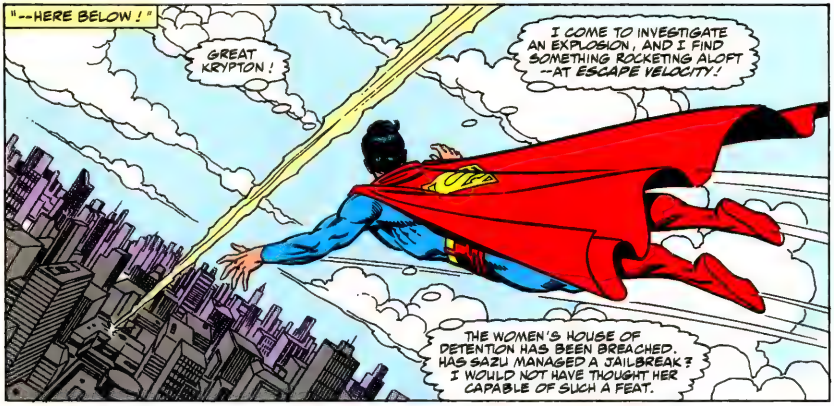

CERTAINLY, THIS COVER FEATURE I ASSIGNED HAS MORE THAN MET MY EXPECTATIONS.
WITH THE RECENT INVASION STILL ON EVERYONE'S MIND, WE MUST REMIND HUMANITY--
A NATION OF ALIENS by JOHN MICHELS
--THAT SOME OF THIS WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES ARE THEMSELVES ALIENS.
BEINGS FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT WORLDS HAVE ADAPTED TO EARTH'S CULTURES AND MADE HOMES HERE...
"...KILOWOG OF BOLOVAX AND NUMEROUS OTHER GREEN LANTERNS...
"...STARFIRE, THE EXILED TITAN OF TAMARAN...
"...J'ONN J'ONZZ, MANHUNTER FROM ANCIENT MARS...
"...NOT TO MENTION THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE PLANET KRYPTON!"
I HAD THE ADVANTAGE, OF COURSE, OF BEING BORN AND RAISED ON THIS WORLD. IT WAS JUST BARELY TWO YEARS AGO THAT I MYSELF LEARNED THAT MY TRUE GENETIC HERITAGE IS KRYPTONIAN!
MANY OF THIS WORLD'S PEOPLES ARE YET UNAWARE THAT SUPERMAN IS NOT NATIVE TO EARTH...
...JUST AS THEY DO NOT REALIZE THAT MISTER MIRACLE AND HIS WIFE BARDA COME FROM THE DISTANT WORLDS OF NEW GENESIS AND APOKOLIPS!

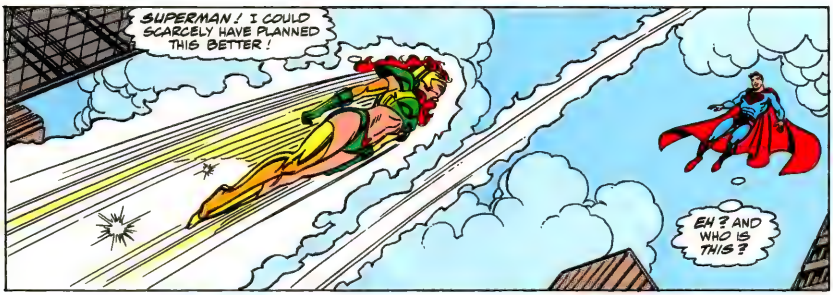
IF ONLY ALL OF EARTH'S ALIEN CONTACTS WERE SO BENEFICIAL! BUT, THAT WOULD BE LIKE WISHING ALL HUMANS TO BE RATIONAL.
RECENTLY, I'VE FACED ONE ALIEN MENACE AFTER ANOTHER...
"...SOME, LIKE LOBO, SEEMED DETERMINED TO PROVE THAT THE EARTH HOLDS NO MONOPOLY ON CASUAL, THOUGHTLESS VIOLENCE."
OTHERS HAVE BEEN TOTAL MYSTERIES, LIKE THAT FOUR-ARMED TERROR...
...OR THAT ANTARCTIC MONSTER! IT WAS PRACTICALLY MINDLESS, MORE A FORCE OF NATURE THAN A LIVING THING!
"AND THEN, THERE WAS BRAINIAC..."
...CLEARLY IN A CLASS BY HIMSELF... A TRULY MALEVOLENT MIND! HIS ESCAPE INTO SPACE IS STILL INFURIATING! IN FACT...
"...THE ONLY ALIEN FOE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SUBDUE AND CAPTURE OF LATE WAS SAZU! AND SHE REMAINS A PUZZLE!
"AT FIRST, SHE ACTED SUBSERVIENT TO THAT OTHER MYSTERY WOMAN -- MAXIMA -- BUT THEN, THEY HAD SOME SORT OF ARGUMENT ABOUT ME AND SAZU APPEARED TO DESTROY HER!"
NOW, FROM WHAT I HEAR, SHE'S TOLD A PUBLIC DEFENDER THAT WHAT SHE DESTROYED WAS MERELY A SIMULACRUM OF MAXIMA.
SO LIFELIKE A CONSTRUCT WOULD INDICATE AN INCREDIBLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY! YET, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
AND ASSUMING THAT SAZU'S CLAIMS ARE TRUE...

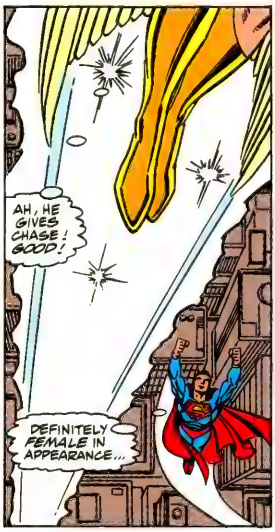

"... WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE REAL MAXIMA? APPARENTLY, SHE WANTED SOMETHING OF ME, BUT WHAT? AND WHERE IS SHE NOW?"
} ENTERING STATIONARY ORBIT {
AT LAST!
HOW IRONIC THAT A BEING OF SO VITAL A BLOODLINE AS SUPERMAN SHOULD LIVE ON SUCH A BACKWATER WORLD, SO FAR FROM ESTABLISHED STAR-ROUTES!
WITH ONLY AUTOMATED SYSTEMS FOR COMPANY, THE TRIP SEEMED ENDLESS. I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT LIVING SERVITORS, BUT AFTER SAZU'S BETRAYAL--
--I TRUST NONE BUT ELECTRONIC UNDERLINGS.
PREPARE ME FOR PLANETFALL! BEGIN ENCAPSULATION!
} AS YOU COMMAND {
} ENCAPSULATION COMPLETED {
} PLANETFALL RELEASE IN 5...4...3... {
SAZU! NOT IN A THOUSAND GENERATIONS HAS ANYONE OF OUR ROYAL HOUSE SUFFERED SUCH AN INDIGNITY AT THE HANDS OF A... MENIAL!
...2...1... AWAY {
I AM COMING FOR YOU, FAITHLESS ONE! YOU INTERFERED WITH MY CHOSEN DESTINY!
BUT YOU SHALL PAY FOR THAT INSOLENCE--
--MOST DEARLY!

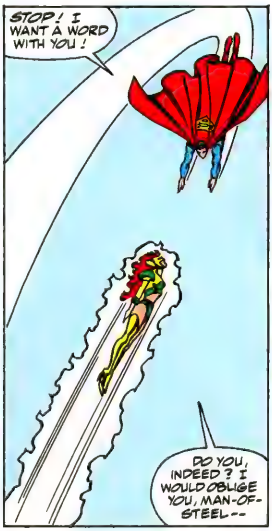

METROPOLIS WOMEN'S HOUSE OF DETENTION.
THE SHAME...
...LIVING OUT THE LAST OF MY DAYS...
...CONFINED BY THESE MISERABLE, PRESUMPTUOUS, PUNY TERRANS!
AND CONFINED MENTALLY, AS WELL! THIS INFERNAL HEAD-PIECE SO FETTERS MY MIND, ITS FULL POWER IS DENIED ME. I FEEL AS ONE BLINDED...
...I CAN BARELY SENSE...
...MAXIMA.
"SHE APPROACHES! SHE HAS ARRIVED BEFORE I COULD DEVISE A REVENGE FOR MY JAILERS!
"HOW UNFAIR! HOW MONSTROUSLY UNFAIR!"
THERE IS NO SOUND AS MAXIMA'S PROTECTIVE CAPSULE ERUPTS, ONLY A BLINDING RADIANCE...
...VISIBLE ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THE CITY!
GOOD LORD! WHAT--?!
MS. TALBOT, HOLD ALL CALLS...
...I'LL BE UNAVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

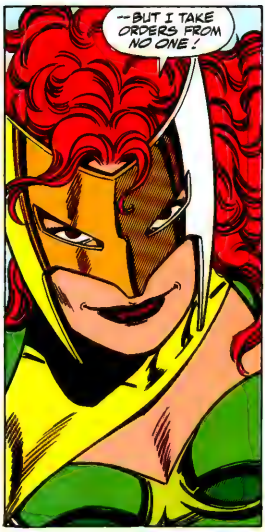

AH... METROPOLIS! PRIMITIVE IT MAY BE, BUT STILL IT IS A CITY... WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT SOUNDS AND SMELLS. HOW GOOD TO AT LAST EXPERIENCE IT IN PERSON!
MY FLAGSHIP'S INSTRUMENTS FUNCTIONED FLAWLESSLY. THE TRAJECTORY THEY PLOTTED HAS DELIVERED ME WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF SAZU. I CAN SENSE HER...
...IN THAT FORTIFIED STRUCTURE!
SHE WILL FIND NO REFUGE FROM ME THERE!
SO, SAZU, WE ARE AGAIN TOGETHER. AND THIS TIME YOU DO NOT FACE AN UNDERPOWERED PROXY!
MERCY, MY LADY, I AM UNDESERVING OF YOUR RAGE!
YOU DEFIED MY WILL! YOU DESTROYED MY SIMULACRUM BEFORE IT COULD FORGE A MENTAL BOND BETWEEN MYSELF AND SUPERMAN!
MY LADY... PLEASE! I DID SO ONLY OUT OF DUTY...
...TO PROTECT YOU! HE IS NOT A WARRIOR WORTHY OF THE BLOOD ROYAL!
AND I SAY HE IS! YOUR INSUFFERABLE MEDDLING IS OVER!
NO... NO--!
SILENCE!
YOUR PUNISHMENT AWAITS OFF-PLANET! I HAVE MORE PLEASANT TASKS BEFORE ME--

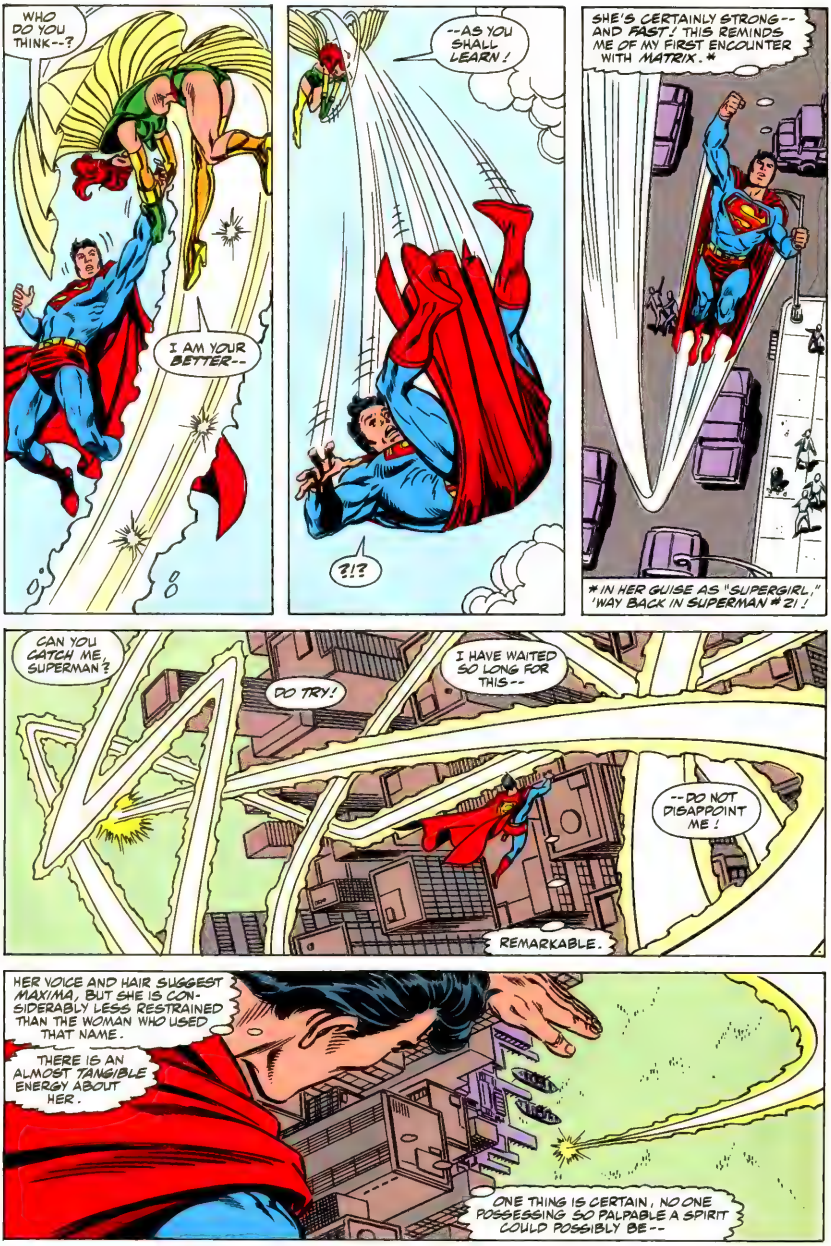

"--HERE BELOW!"
GREAT KRYPTON!
I COME TO INVESTIGATE AN EXPLOSION, AND I FIND SOMETHING ROCKETING ALOFT --AT ESCAPE VELOCITY!
THE WOMEN'S HOUSE OF DETENTION HAS BEEN BREACHED. HAS SAZU MANAGED A JAILBREAK? I WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT HER CAPABLE OF SUCH A FEAT.

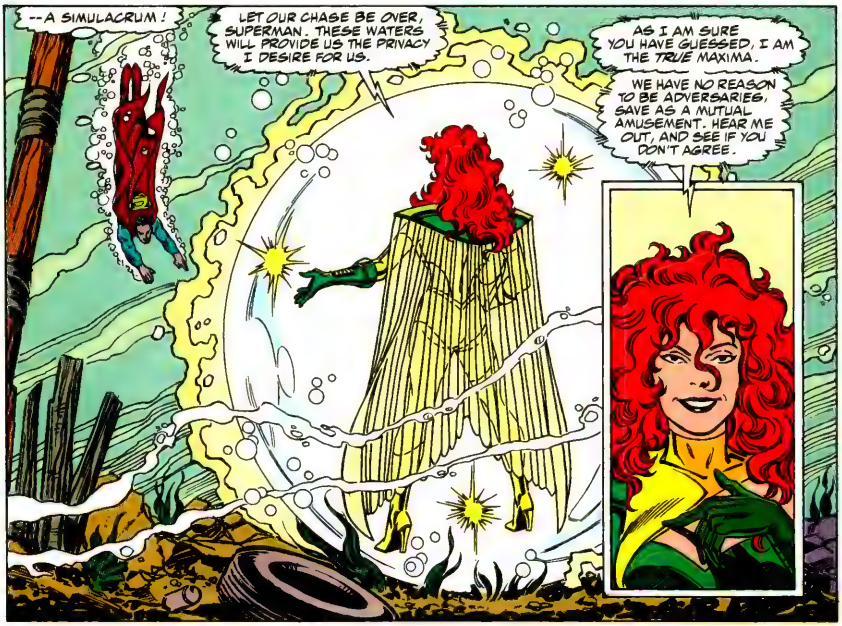

SUPERMAN! I COULD SCARCELY HAVE PLANNED THIS BETTER!
EH? AND WHO IS THIS?


AH, HE GIVES CHASE! GOOD!
DEFINITELY FEMALE IN APPEARANCE...


STOP! I WANT A WORD WITH YOU!
DO YOU, INDEED? I WOULD OBLIGE YOU, MAN-OF-STEEL--


--BUT I TAKE ORDERS FROM NO ONE!


WHO DO YOU THINK--?
I AM YOUR BETTER--
--AS YOU SHALL LEARN!
?!?
SHE'S CERTAINLY STRONG--AND FAST! THIS REMINDS ME OF MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH MATRIX.*
*IN HER GUISE AS "SUPERGIRL," 'WAY BACK IN SUPERMAN #21!
CAN YOU CATCH ME, SUPERMAN?
DO TRY!
I HAVE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS--
--DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME!
REMARKABLE.
HER VOICE AND HAIR SUGGEST MAXIMA, BUT SHE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS RESTRAINED THAN THE WOMAN WHO USED THAT NAME.
THERE IS AN ALMOST TANGIBLE ENERGY ABOUT HER.
ONE THING IS CERTAIN, NO ONE POSSESSING SO PALPABLE A SPIRIT COULD POSSIBLY BE--


--A SIMULACRUM!
LET OUR CHASE BE OVER, SUPERMAN. THESE WATERS WILL PROVIDE US THE PRIVACY I DESIRE FOR US.
AS I AM SURE YOU HAVE GUESSED, I AM THE TRUE MAXIMA.
WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE ADVERSARIES, SAVE AS A MUTUAL AMUSEMENT. HEAR ME OUT, AND SEE IF YOU DON'T AGREE.

SHE "SPEAKS" TELEPATHICALLY. NOT TERRIBLY SURPRISING... HER POWERS ARE OBVIOUSLY PSIONIC. I'D BEST GUARD MY THOUGHTS CAREFULLY.
DO NOT WORRY, SUPERMAN, I HAVE NO NEED TO VIOLATE YOUR INNERMOST PSYCHE.

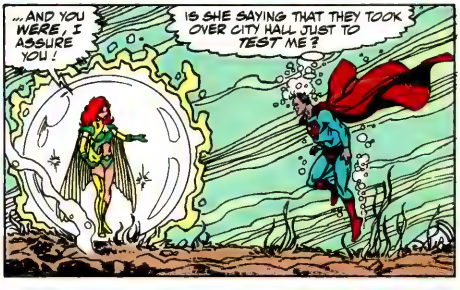
KNOW YOU THAT I AM OF A HEARTY, STAR-SPANNING PEOPLE...
"...MY FAMILY HAS SPENT MILLENNIA FORGING A RICH EMPIRE THROUGHOUT OUR GALAXY. OUR POWER IS VAST, OUR RIVALS BUT FEW."

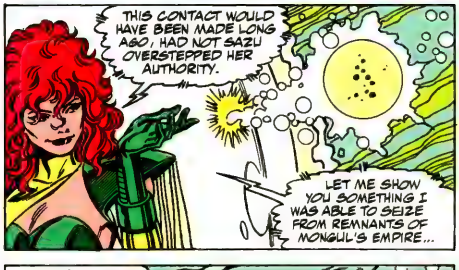
"MY EARLY ANCESTORS RECOGNIZED THAT NO ONE RACE EMBODIES ALL THE MANY ASPECTS OF STRENGTH AND POWER -- AND SO, THEY BEGAN A CYCLE OF CONTINUOUS WARFARE!
"THEY CHOSE THEIR CONQUESTS CAREFULLY, SEEKING OUT WORLDS WITH RICH GENETIC STOCK, AND ASSIMILATING ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVORS INTO THE EMPIRE.
"THOSE PEOPLES FOUND TO BE WEAK AND INFERIOR WERE... REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION.
"MY OWN IMPERIAL BLOODLINE IS THE PROUD RESULT OF GENERATIONS OF SELECTIVE BREEDING. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RECENT GENERATION OF PROSPECTIVE MATES HAS BEEN MOST DISAPPOINTING.
"OF LATE WE HAD BEGUN TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE INEVITABLE WAR WITH THE FORCES OF THE TYRANT MONGUL.
"SO IT WAS THAT I CAME TO VIEW AN INTERCEPTED HOLO-CAST OF YOUR BATTLES IN MONGUL'S GLADIATORIAL GAMES.
"I WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY YOUR... PROWESS.

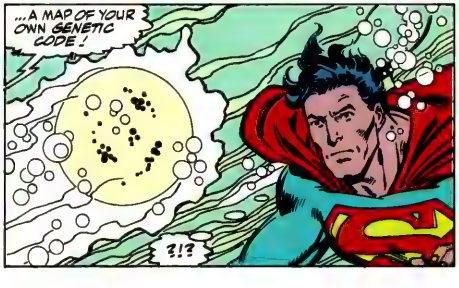
"YOUR STRENGTH AND SKILL WERE WELL DISPLAYED IN YOUR TOPPLING OF THE CHAMPION DRAAGA. AND YOUR REFUSAL TO OBEY MONGUL'S KILL ORDER INTRIGUED ME..."

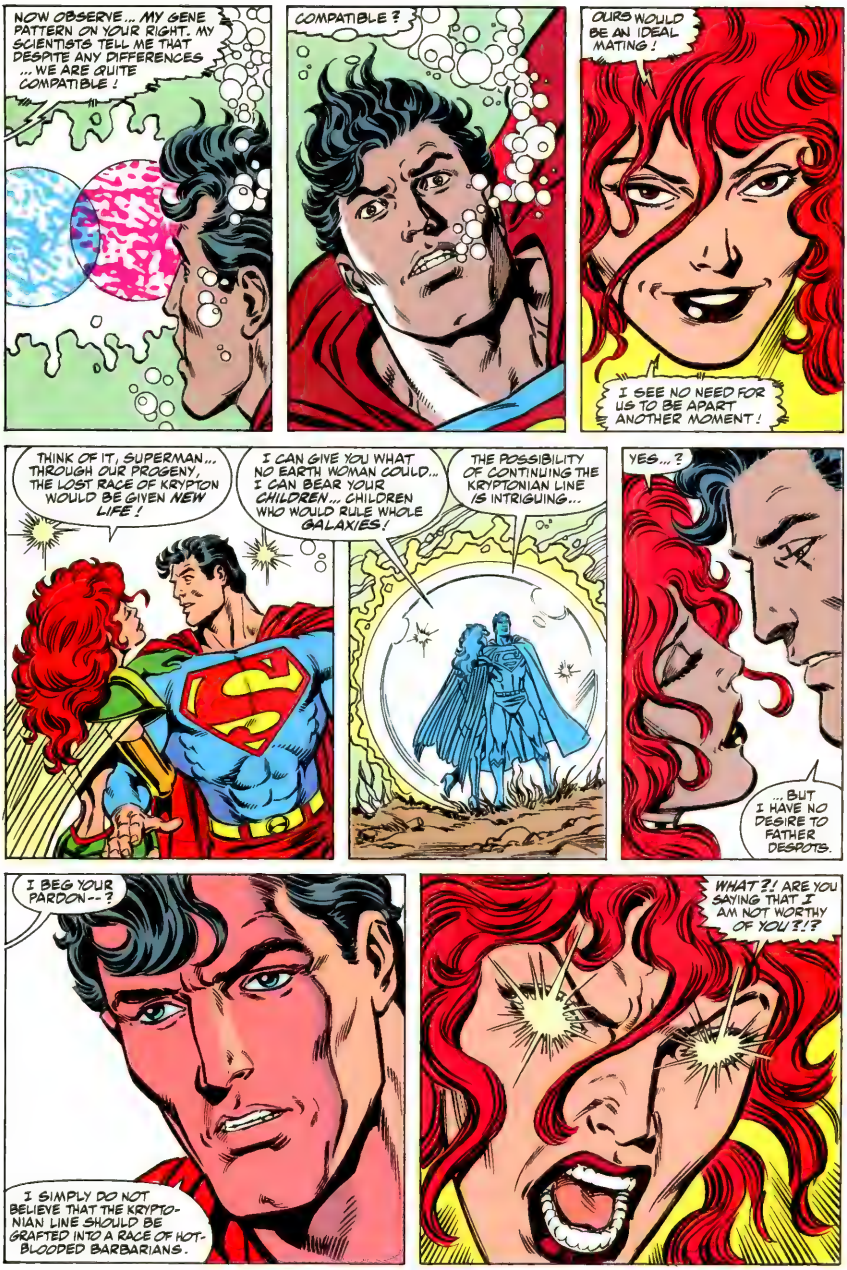
"...THOUGH, FROM THE FIRST, MY HANDMAIDEN SAZU THOUGHT MY INTEREST INEXPLICABLE.
YOU FIND THE KRYPTONIAN APPEALING, MY LADY? BUT SUCH MERCY AS HE SHOWS CAN BE A FATAL FLAW IN A WARRIOR.
PERHAPS. BUT HE SHOWS DEFINITE POTENTIAL.

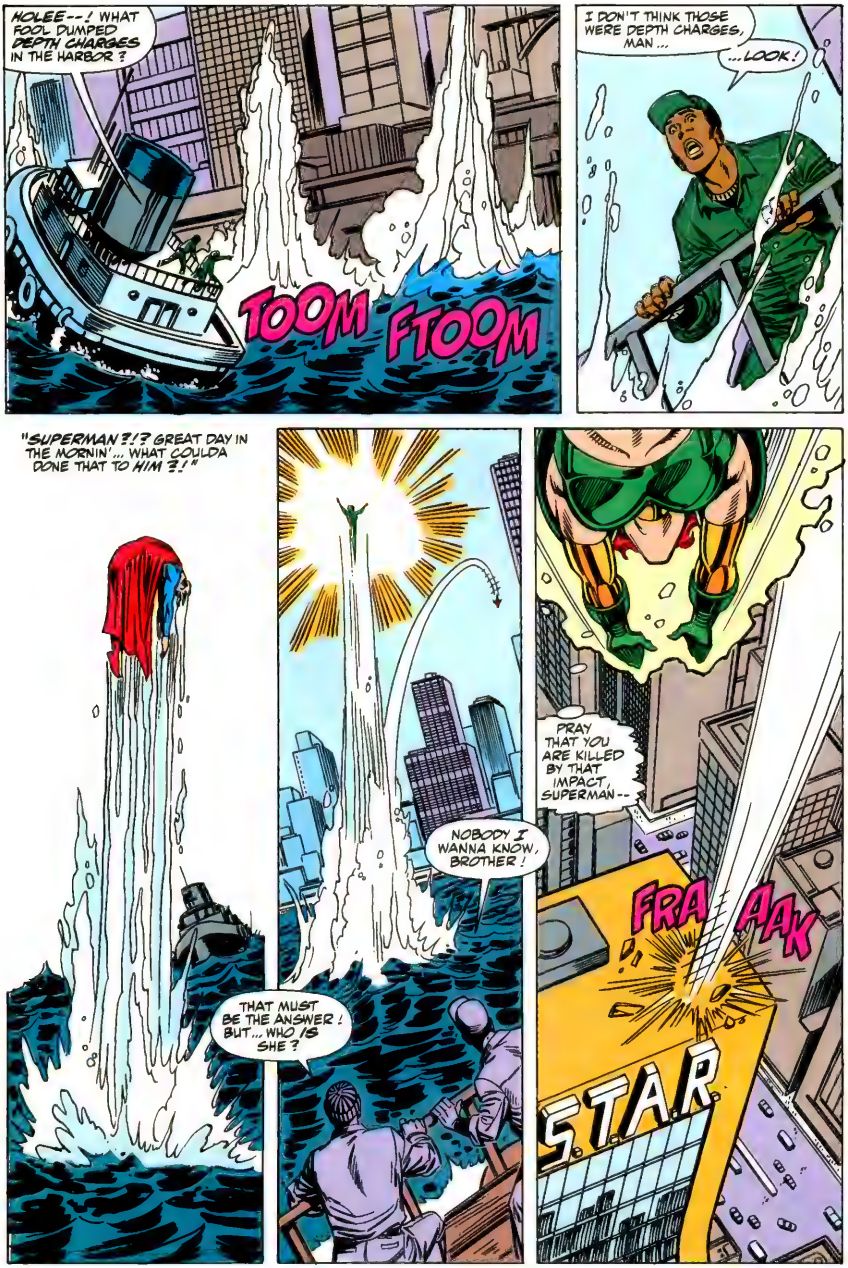
"DISMISSING SAZU'S DOUBTS, I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE YOU MYSELF...
"... BUT THE DISSOLUTION OF MONGUL'S RULE -- TRIGGERED IN NO SMALL PART BY YOUR ACT OF DEFIANCE -- DEMANDED MY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. THUS, I ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIMULACRUM...
"...A NEAR-PERFECT DOUBLE OF MYSELF THAT COULD SEEK YOU OUT AND ENTICE YOU TO JOIN ME ON MY WORLD OF ALMERAC, IF YOU WERE FOUND WORTHY..."

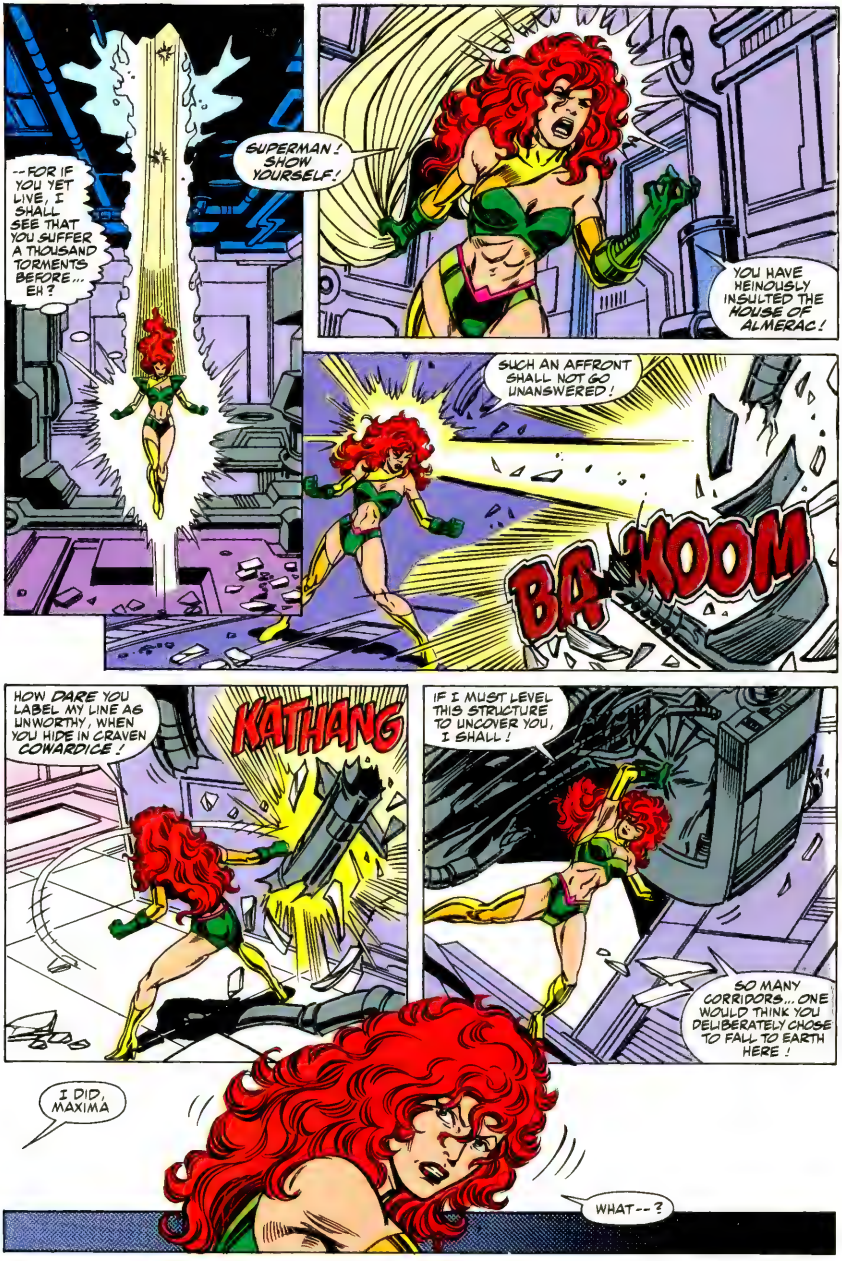

...AND YOU WERE, I ASSURE YOU!
IS SHE SAYING THAT THEY TOOK OVER CITY HALL JUST TO TEST ME?


THIS CONTACT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE LONG AGO, HAD NOT SAZU OVERSTEPPED HER AUTHORITY.
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING I WAS ABLE TO SEIZE FROM REMNANTS OF MONGUL'S EMPIRE...

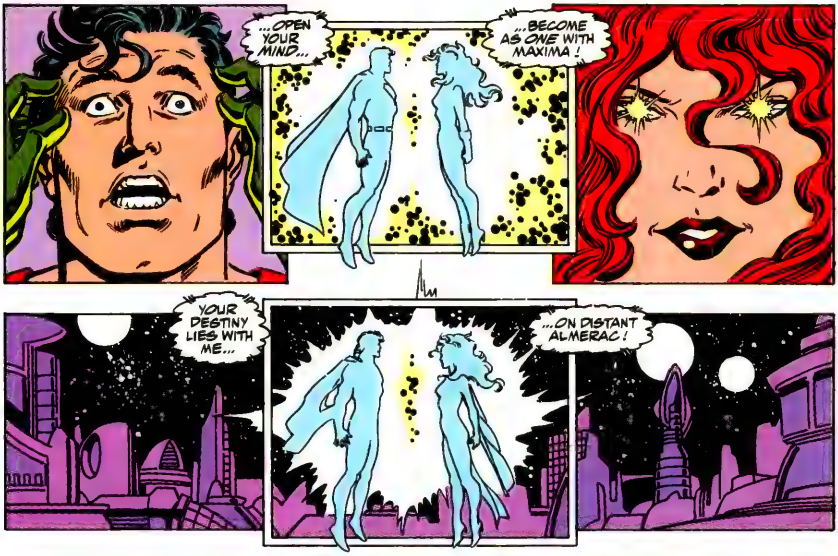

...A MAP OF YOUR OWN GENETIC CODE!
?!?

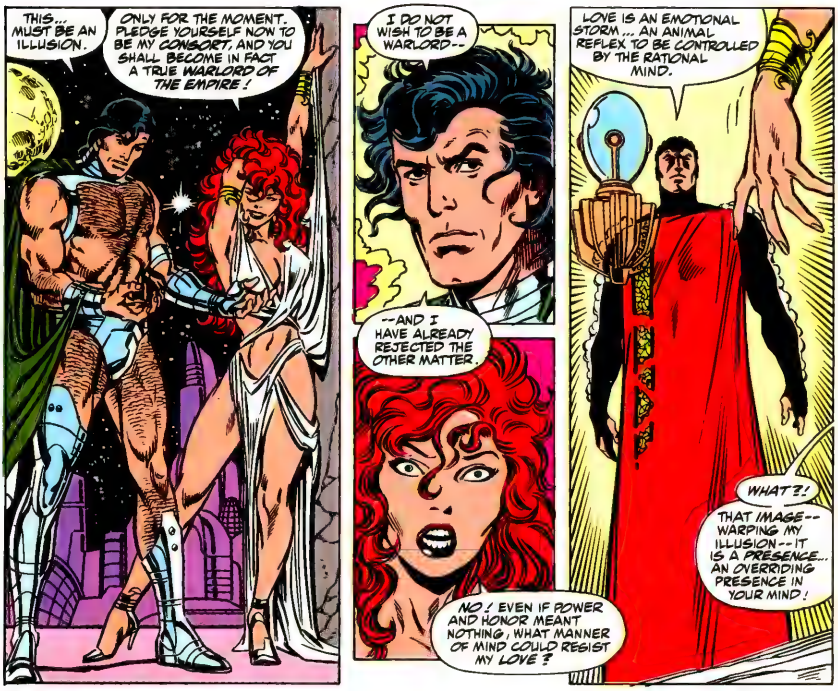

NOW OBSERVE... MY GENE PATTERN ON YOUR RIGHT. MY SCIENTISTS TELL ME THAT DESPITE ANY DIFFERENCES ... WE ARE QUITE COMPATIBLE!
COMPATIBLE?
OURS WOULD BE AN IDEAL MATING!
I SEE NO NEED FOR US TO BE APART ANOTHER MOMENT!
THINK OF IT, SUPERMAN... THROUGH OUR PROGENY, THE LOST RACE OF KRYPTON WOULD BE GIVEN NEW LIFE!
I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT NO EARTH WOMAN COULD... I CAN BEAR YOUR CHILDREN... CHILDREN WHO WOULD RULE WHOLE GALAXIES!
THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING THE KRYPTONIAN LINE IS INTRIGUING...
YES...?
... BUT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FATHER DESPOTS.
I BEG YOUR PARDON--?
I SIMPLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE KRYPTONIAN LINE SHOULD BE GRAFTED INTO A RACE OF HOT-BLOODED BARBARIANS.
WHAT?! ARE YOU SAYING THAT I AM NOT WORTHY OF YOU?!?


HOLEE--! WHAT FOOL DUMPED DEPTH CHARGES IN THE HARBOR?
TOOM FTOOM
I DON'T THINK THOSE WERE DEPTH CHARGES, MAN...
...LOOK!
"SUPERMAN?!? GREAT DAY IN THE MORNIN'... WHAT COULDA DONE THAT TO HIM?!"
THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER! BUT... WHO IS SHE?
NOBODY I WANNA KNOW, BROTHER!
PRAY THAT YOU ARE KILLED BY THAT IMPACT, SUPERMAN--
FRA AAK
S.T.A.R.

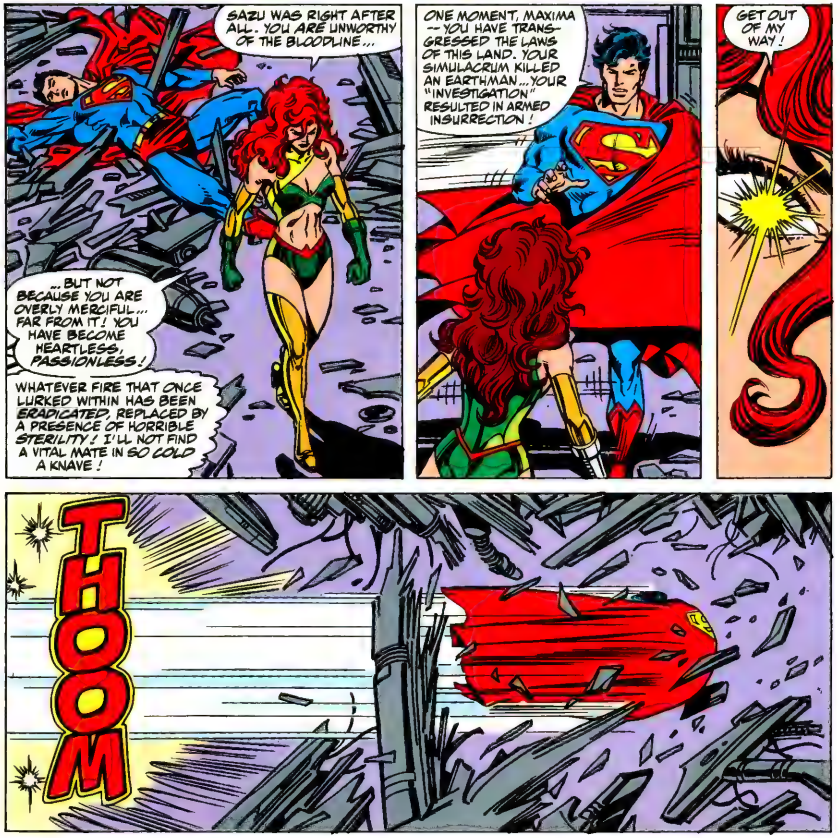

--FOR IF YOU YET LIVE, I SHALL SEE THAT YOU SUFFER A THOUSAND TORMENTS BEFORE... EH?
SUPERMAN! SHOW YOURSELF!
YOU HAVE HEINOUSLY INSULTED THE HOUSE OF ALMERAC!
SUCH AN AFFRONT SHALL NOT GO UNANSWERED!
BA-HOOM
HOW DARE YOU LABEL MY LINE AS UNWORTHY, WHEN YOU HIDE IN CRAVEN COWARDICE!
KATHANG
IF I MUST LEVEL THIS STRUCTURE TO UNCOVER YOU, I SHALL!
SO MANY CORRIDORS... ONE WOULD THINK YOU DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO FALL TO EARTH HERE!
I DID, MAXIMA
WHAT--?

WHOOSH
I KNEW THAT S.T.A.R. LABS WOULD HAVE THE EQUIPMENT ON HAND WITH WHICH TO HANDLE YOU.
THE TIME I SPENT LOCATING IT AFFORDED ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECRETLY OBSERVE YOU IN ACTION.
ONCE I HAD SEEN THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR PHYSICAL POWER, I WAS ABLE TO ASSESS THE AMOUNT OF LUNG POWER NEEDED TO END YOUR TANTRUM.
AT ANY RATE, THIS HEADBAND SHOULD HOLD YOUR MENTAL POWERS IN CHECK.
I REGRET THE NECESSITY OF THIS, BUT...
...ODD. YOU'RE NOT BREATHING. I CAN FIND NO PULSE. BUT THAT SHOULD NOT BE! I DID NOT USE ENOUGH FORCE TO CAUSE FATAL INJURY.
QUITE RIGHT, FOOL!
--BUT IT WOULD BE INHERENT IN OUR OFF-SPRING! ALLOW THIS "BARBARIAN" TO SHOW YOU WHAT COULD BE YOURS...
THE POWERS OF MY MIND ALLOW ME TO TEMPORARILY HALT MY BODY'S VITAL FUNCTIONS. SUCH AN ABILITY MAY BE DENIED YOU--

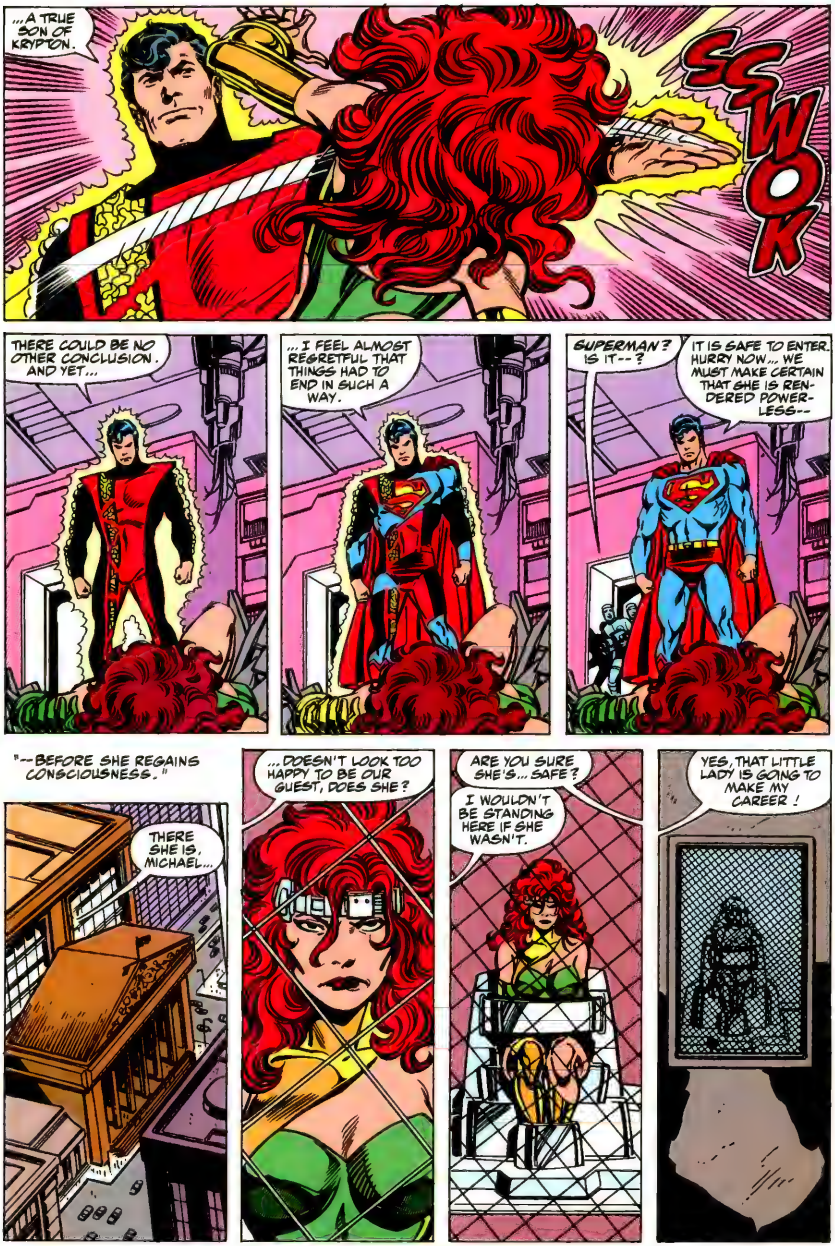

...OPEN YOUR MIND...
...BECOME AS ONE WITH MAXIMA!
YOUR DESTINY LIES WITH ME...
...ON DISTANT ALMERAC!

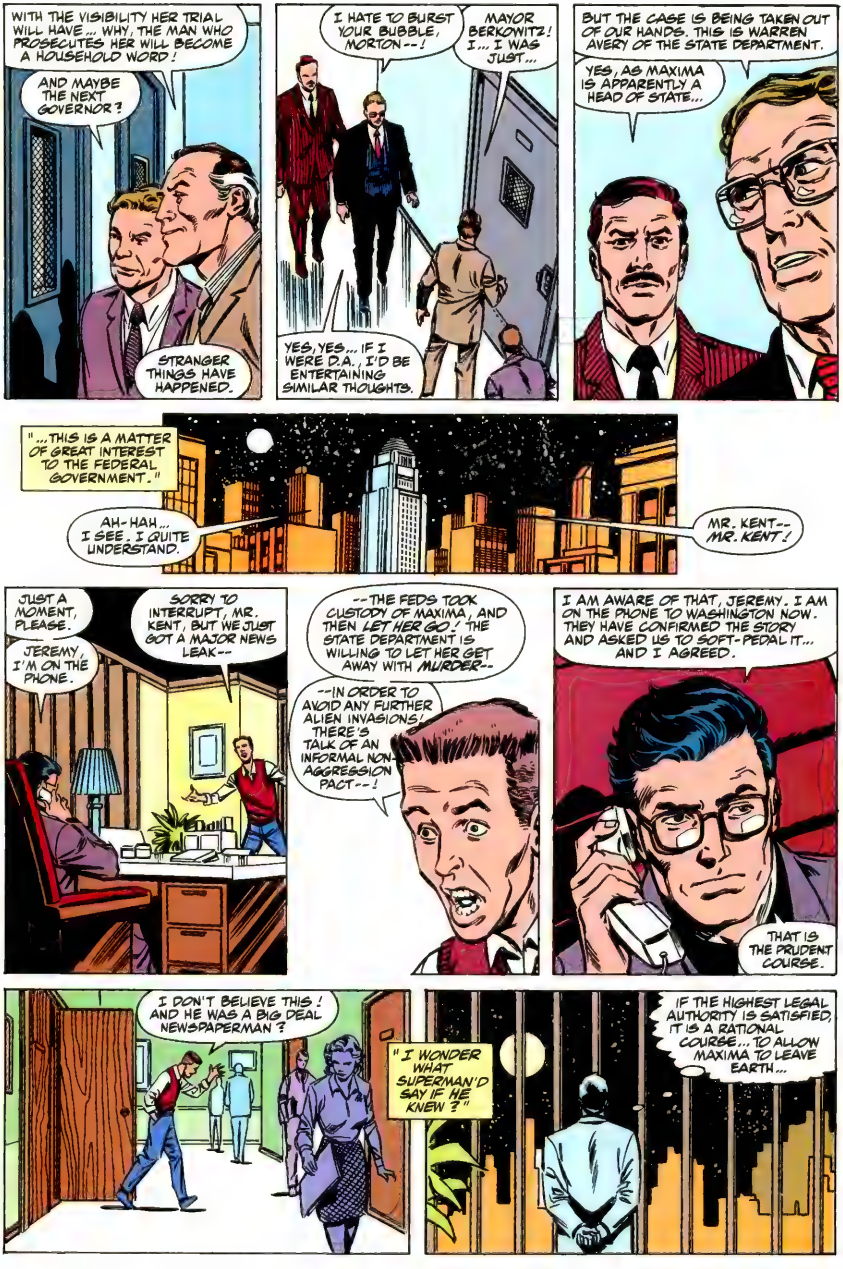

THIS... MUST BE AN ILLUSION.
ONLY FOR THE MOMENT. PLEDGE YOURSELF NOW TO BE MY CONSORT, AND YOU SHALL BECOME IN FACT A TRUE WARLORD OF THE EMPIRE!
I DO NOT WISH TO BE A WARLORD--
--AND I HAVE ALREADY REJECTED THE OTHER MATTER.
NO! EVEN IF POWER AND HONOR MEANT NOTHING, WHAT MANNER OF MIND COULD RESIST MY LOVE?
LOVE IS AN EMOTIONAL STORM... AN ANIMAL REFLEX TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE RATIONAL MIND.
WHAT?!
THAT IMAGE-- WARPING MY ILLUSION-- IT IS A PRESENCE... AN OVERRIDING PRESENCE IN YOUR MIND!

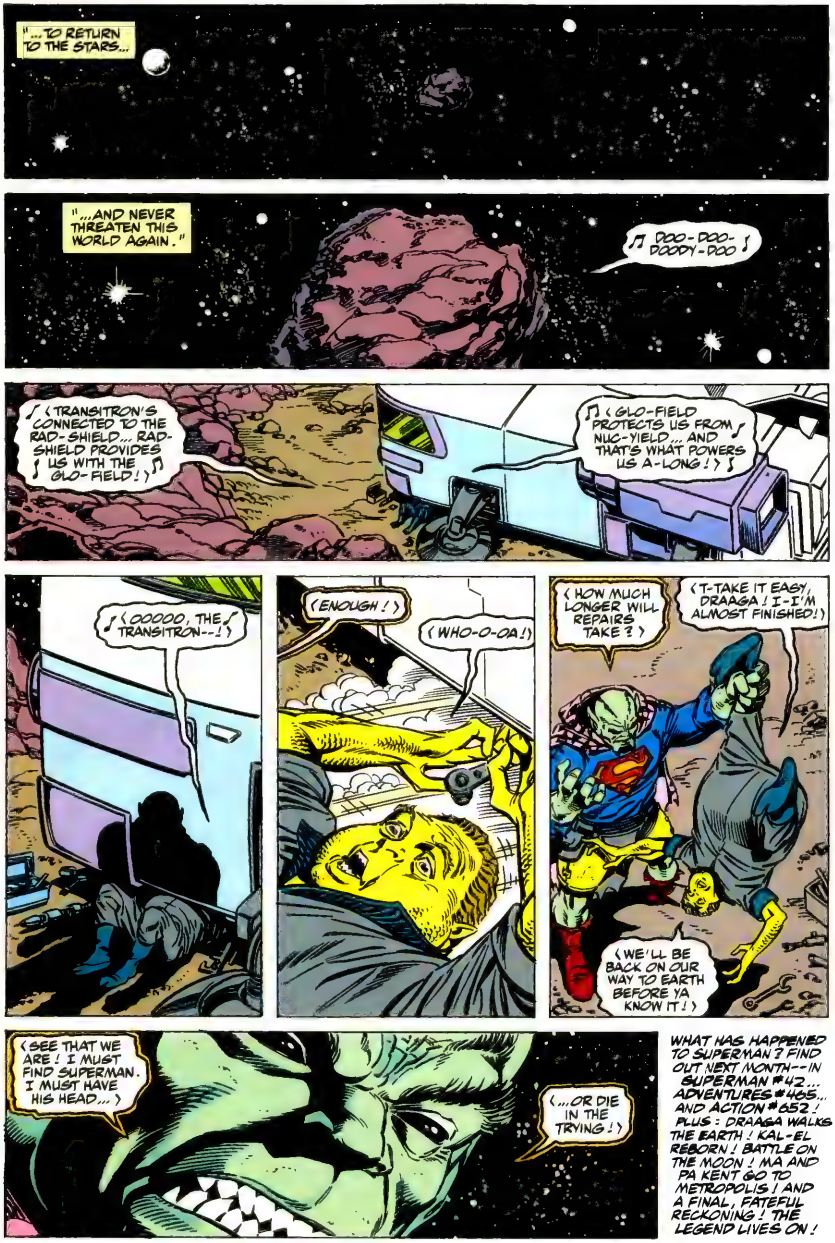
I WILL HAVE NO PART OF IT!
AND I WILL HAVE NO PART OF YOU!


SAZU WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL. YOU ARE UNWORTHY OF THE BLOODLINE...
...BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE OVERLY MERCIFUL... FAR FROM IT! YOU HAVE BECOME HEARTLESS, PASSIONLESS!
WHATEVER FIRE THAT ONCE LURKED WITHIN HAS BEEN ERADICATED, REPLACED BY A PRESENCE OF HORRIBLE STERILITY! I'LL NOT FIND A VITAL MATE IN SO COLD A KNAVE!
ONE MOMENT, MAXIMA -- YOU HAVE TRANSGRESSED THE LAWS OF THIS LAND. YOUR SIMULACRUM KILLED AN EARTHMAN... YOUR "INVESTIGATION" RESULTED IN ARMED INSURRECTION!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
THOOM

MAXIMA...
...YOU MUST... ANSWER TO... THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ...FOR THOSE CRIMES.
I CARE LESS FOR YOUR PETTY LAWS THAN I CARE FOR YOU!
I WILL NOW LEAVE--
--DO NOT INTERFERE.
I MUST.
THEN DIE!
NO, MAXIMA, I WILL NOT. UNLEASH ALL YOUR POWER UPON ME... I AM PREPARED FOR IT.
YOUR SENSELESS REACTIONS ONLY CONFIRM MY EARLIER CONCLUSIONS--
--YOU ARE OVERLY EMOTIONAL... A BARBARIAN... AND A CRIMINAL.
YET DESPITE THAT, I FEEL ODDLY IN YOUR DEBT.
IN SHOWING ME WHAT YOU ARE, I HAVE SEEN MORE CLEARLY WHAT I WISH MOST NOT TO BE--
--AND THUS, HAVE REALIZED WHAT I AM...


...A TRUE SON OF KRYPTON.
SCWOK
THERE COULD BE NO OTHER CONCLUSION. AND YET...
...I FEEL ALMOST REGRETFUL THAT THINGS HAD TO END IN SUCH A WAY.
SUPERMAN? IS IT--?
IT IS SAFE TO ENTER. HURRY NOW... WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT SHE IS RENDERED POWERLESS--
"--BEFORE SHE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS."
THERE SHE IS, MICHAEL...
...DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TO BE OUR GUEST, DOES SHE?
ARE YOU SURE SHE'S... SAFE?
I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE IF SHE WASN'T.
YES, THAT LITTLE LADY IS GOING TO MAKE MY CAREER!


WITH THE VISIBILITY HER TRIAL WILL HAVE... WHY, THE MAN WHO PROSECUTES HER WILL BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD!
AND MAYBE THE NEXT GOVERNOR?
STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, MORTON--!
MAYOR BERKOWITZ! I... I WAS JUST...
YES, YES... IF I WERE D.A., I'D BE ENTERTAINING SIMILAR THOUGHTS.
BUT THE CASE IS BEING TAKEN OUT OF OUR HANDS. THIS IS WARREN AVERY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
YES, AS MAXIMA IS APPARENTLY A HEAD OF STATE...
"...THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT."
AH-HAH... I SEE. I QUITE UNDERSTAND.
MR. KENT-- MR. KENT!
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.
JEREMY, I'M ON THE PHONE.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, MR. KENT, BUT WE JUST GOT A MAJOR NEWS LEAK--
--THE FEDS TOOK CUSTODY OF MAXIMA, AND THEN LET HER GO! THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO LET HER GET AWAY WITH MURDER--
--IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY FURTHER ALIEN INVASIONS, THERE'S A TALK OF AN INFORMAL NON-AGGRESSION PACT--!
I AM AWARE OF THAT, JEREMY. I AM ON THE PHONE TO WASHINGTON NOW. THEY HAVE CONFIRMED THE STORY AND ASKED US TO SOFT-PEDAL IT... AND I AGREED.
THAT IS THE PRUDENT COURSE.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! AND HE WAS A BIG DEAL NEWSPAPERMAN?
"I WONDER WHAT SUPERMAN'D SAY IF HE KNEW?"
IF THE HIGHEST LEGAL AUTHORITY IS SATISFIED, IT IS A RATIONAL COURSE... TO ALLOW MAXIMA TO LEAVE EARTH...


"...TO RETURN TO THE STARS...
"...AND NEVER THREATEN THIS WORLD AGAIN."
♫ DOO-DOO-DOODY-DOO ♪
♪ (TRANSITRON'S CONNECTED TO THE RAD-SHIELD... RAD-SHIELD PROVIDES US WITH THE GLO-FIELD!) ♫
♫ (GLO-FIELD PROTECTS US FROM NUC-YIELD... AND THAT'S WHAT POWERS US A-LONG!) ♪
♪ (OOOOO, THE TRANSITRON--!) ♪
(ENOUGH!)
(WHO-O-OA!)
(HOW MUCH LONGER WILL REPAIRS TAKE?)
(T-TAKE IT EASY, DRAAGA! I-I'M ALMOST FINISHED!)
(WE'LL BE BACK ON OUR WAY TO EARTH BEFORE YA KNOW IT!)
(SEE THAT WE ARE! I MUST FIND SUPERMAN. I MUST HAVE HIS HEAD...)
(...OR DIE IN THE TRYING!)
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN? FIND OUT NEXT MONTH--IN SUPERMAN #42... ADVENTURES #465... AND ACTION #652! PLUS: DRAAGA WALKS THE EARTH! KAL-EL REBORN! BATTLE ON THE MOON! MA AND PA KENT GO TO METROPOLIS! AND A FINAL, FATEFUL RECKONING! THE LEGEND LIVES ON!

SUPERMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

I DON'T KNOW *WHY* THIS DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME BEFORE--IT'S SUCH A *LOGICAL* LOCATION.

MILES BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC, IN A FORTRESS DEDICATED TO MY KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE...

WHAT MORE FITTING PLACE COULD I FIND TO STORE FRAGMENTS OF MY LONG DEAD HOMEWORLD?

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO TAKE *KRYPTONITE?*

Jeffy ORDWAY
SCRIPT - PENCILS

Dennis JANKE
INKER

Glenn WHITMORE
COLORIST

John COSTANZA
LETTERS

Mike CARLIN
EDITOR

Joli PETERSON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

IT'LL BE FAR AWAY FROM *PRYING EYES.*

DOWN HERE, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS, WHERE IT COULD DO ME HARM!

THAT SENSATION-- AS I ENTERED THIS CHAMBER-- --SOME KIND OF *STATIC* BUILD-UP?

WELL, IT'S GONE NOW. NO MATTER-- *THIS* IS WHY I CAME HERE--

--THE FOUR KRYPTONITE SLIVERS THAT THE PSYCHOTIC BLOODSPORT HAD MADE INTO *BULLETS* TO KILL ME WITH!

I SUSPECT THESE BITS WERE CARVED OFF THE LARGER CHUNK THAT LEX LUTHOR POSSESSES!

I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I'VE RETRIEVED IT ALL, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, THIS WILL DO!

IT WILL BE SECURE IN HERE, SINCE I DEDUCED HOW TO *CONTROL* THE ERADICATOR!

AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! I BROUGHT IT TO THE ANTARCTIC TO BE *RID* OF IT...

"...BUT IT WOULDN'T GO AWAY. IT BUILT THIS FORTRESS AROUND ITSELF...

... AND PROCEEDED TO WREAK HAVOC ON THE EARTHS' ECOLOGY, BY MELTING THE ICE-CAP.

"TIDAL WAVES, EARTHQUAKES, TORNADOES -- THE SAFETY OF THE PLANET AT STAKE, AND I COULDN'T CONTROL MY ARTIFACT!

"WELL, AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT COMPLETING SOMETHING CALLED THE KRYPTONIAN RITE OF PASSAGE -- THE TRIUMPH OF SCIENCE OVER BARBARISM!

"THAT RITE GAVE ME AN INNER STRENGTH TO CONTROL THE ERADICATOR."

I--BEG OF YOU--IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY EL...

...LEAVE EARTH...

ALONNNNE.

WHEN I AWOKE, THIS SHRINE TO KRYPTON WAS STANDING!

TRIBUTES TO JOR-EL AND LARA, MY BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, ALONG WITH OTHER RELICS OF KRYPTON'S PAST. *

* In Adventures #461

WELL, ON TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!

A CONTROLLED BEAM OF HEAT VISION TO THIS WALL OF ICE, AND...

SSSSS

...INSTANT COLD STORAGE VAULT!

ONCE I REPLACE THIS ICE PLUG, THE KRYPTONITE SHOULD BE WELL HIDDEN!

WITH ALL THE TROUBLE THAT'S DESCENDED ON THIS PLACE, IT'S NICE TO SEE IT HAS A BENEFICIAL SIDE, TOO.

THIS COULD BECOME A GOOD PLACE FOR ME TO COME TO UNWIND...

"A PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE NOW!"

〈I SEEK TRANSPORT TO A *RIM* WORLD IN SECTOR *TWELVE!*〉

〈YEAH, DRAAGA-- *EARTH!* YOU GOT DAT WHATCHA CALLIT-- DEB-IT O' HONOR TO PAY!〉

〈*THIS*... IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE US ALL THE WAY TO *EARTH?!*〉

〈NAW, PAL O'MINE, DIS IS DA SHUTTLE TO TAKE US *OFF-WORLD*, WHERE I STOW MY *RIG*.〉

〈CAN'T AFFORD TO DOCK IT ON *THIS* PLANET!〉

〈HURRY, I MUST GET TO EARTH SO THAT I *MAY* CONFRONT THE SUPERMAN IN BATTLE -- AND REGAIN MY HONOR!〉

〈RELAX. WHEN A *K'RAAMDYN* SAYS HE'S GONNA DO SOMETHIN',* IT *GETS* DONE!〉

〈I FEEL FOR YOU, PALLY! I SAW YER FIGHT WIT' THE KRYPTONIAN. HE BROKE THE RULES! YOU WUZ *ROOKED!*〉

FRRRMMM

*In Action 650 -- JUNIOR!

〈ANYHOW, MY RIG *IS* A BEAUT! WAIT'LL YOU SEE HER. BACK THERE, I'D BE IN *HOCK* FROM THE DOCKING FEES...〉

〈*PLUS* SHE'D GET ALL DINGED UP!〉

〈JUST DRIVE!〉

〈*Sheesh!* THIS IS GONNA BE *ONE FUN TRIP*--.! *HEY!!*〉

〈@#%*&!! CRAZY DRIVER!〉

♪LALALA♪

pgc

<HEY, YOU SCHLUBS, WHERE'S THE PARTY?>

<LOBO'S GOT SOME SORROW TO DROWN!>

<HEY, YOU KOZAR-- YOU ROOINED MY-->

<--SHOT.>

<I AM A KOZAR... :HIC:... YOU SPILT MY HOOTCH-->

<--AND NOW YER BLOCKIN' THE...:HIC:... BAR.>

<WHATSA PARTY ANIMAL GOTTA DO TO...:HICCUP:... GET A DRINK IN THIS JOINT?>

<THAT ONE, I'VE HEARD TELL, COULD BEAT THE KRYPTONIAN!>

<THE CALIMARI SAYS HE HEARD DRAAGA LEFT HIS THRONE ON WAR-WORLD TO SEEK REVENGE AGAINST THE SUPERMAN!>

<TINY...L'IL CUP..?>

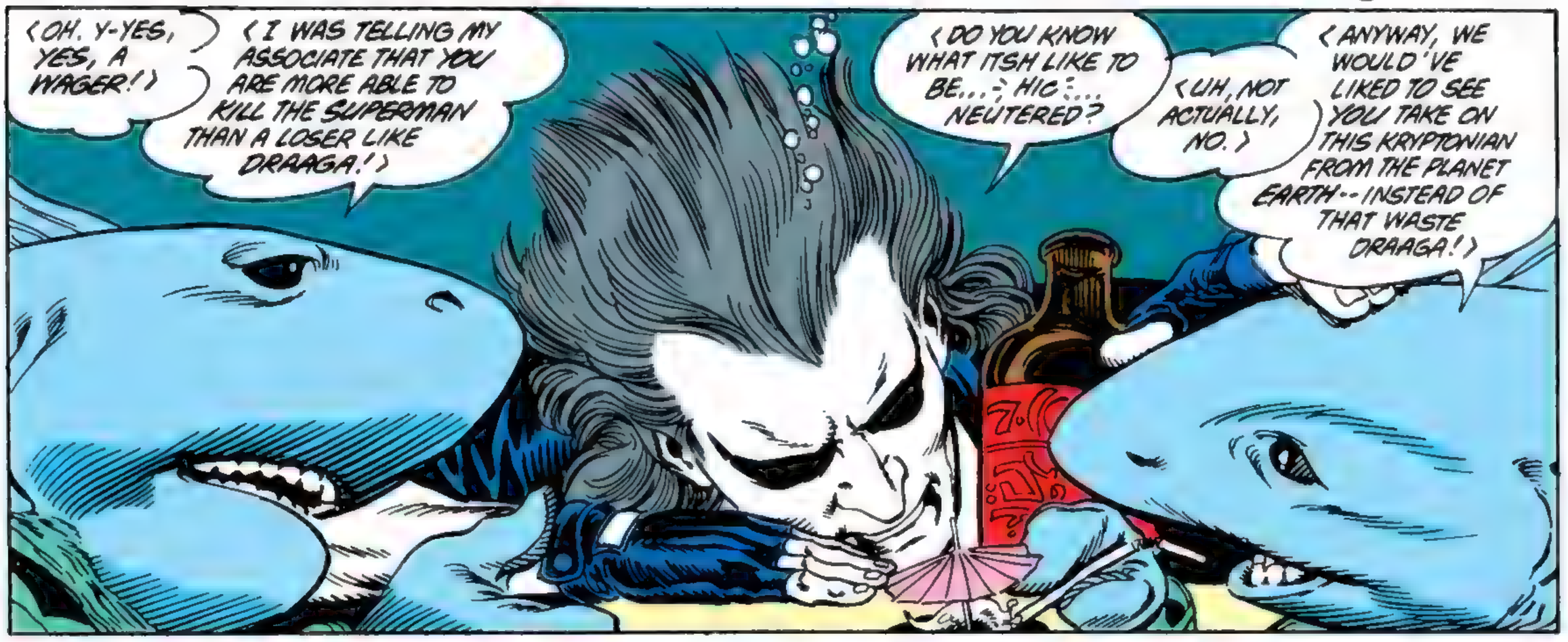
<HEY...THIS STUFF COMINA BOTTL'?>

<DRAAGA WAS DEFEATED SO SOUNDLY IN THE GAMES, THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE FOUR TO ONE.>

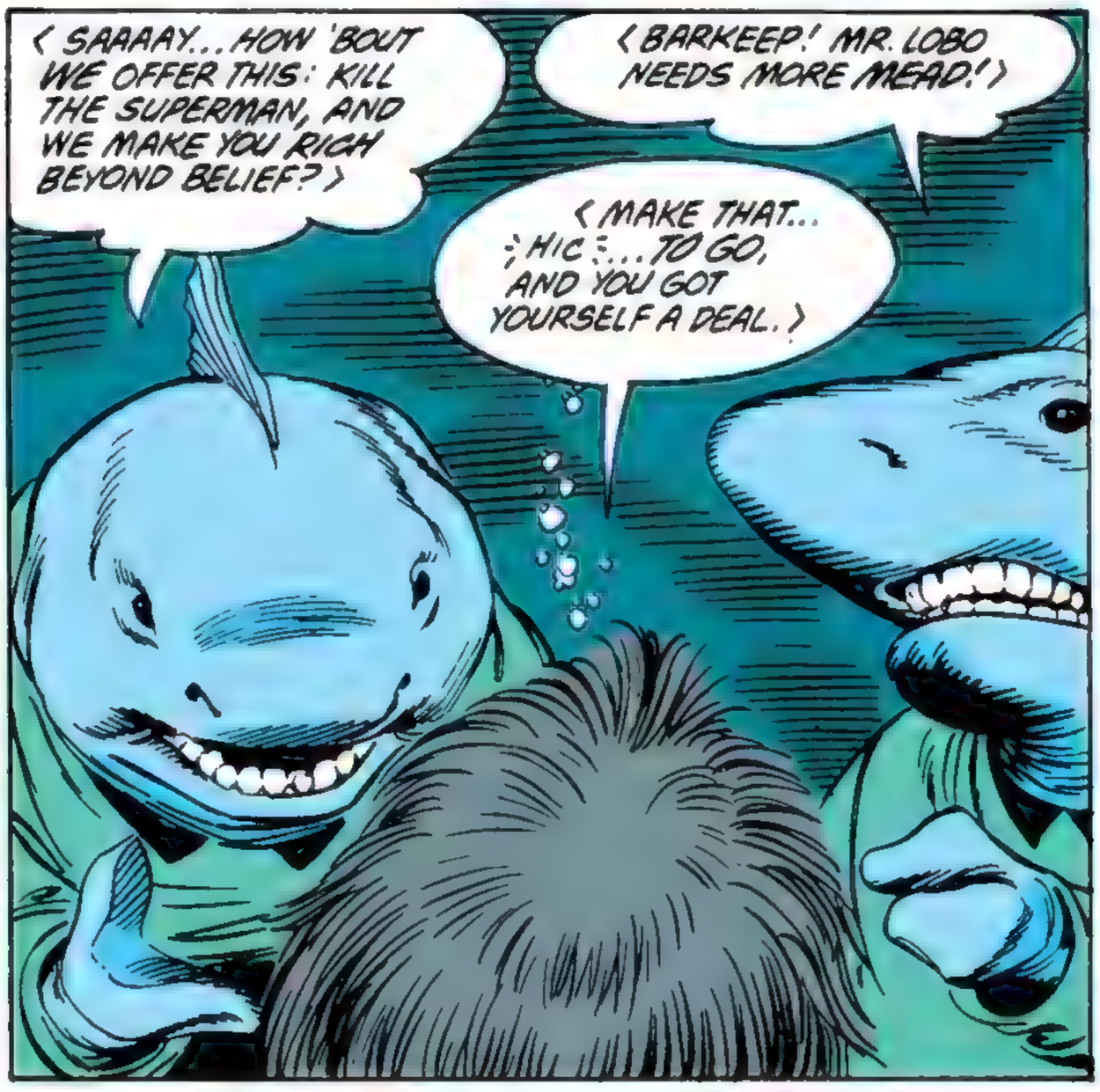
<H-H-:HIC:>

<NICE FISHIES--YOU GUYS REMIND ME OF MY PES...>

<ONE OF YOU... :HIC:... MENTION A WAGER?>


(OH. Y-YES, YES, A WAGER!)
(I WAS TELLING MY ASSOCIATE THAT YOU ARE MORE ABLE TO KILL THE SUPERMAN THAN A LOSER LIKE DRAAGA.!)
(DO YOU KNOW WHAT ITSH LIKE TO BE...; HIC:... NEUTERED?
(UH, NOT ACTUALLY, NO.)
(ANYWAY, WE WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE YOU TAKE ON THIS KRYPTONIAN FROM THE PLANET EARTH--INSTEAD OF THAT WASTE DRAAGA!)

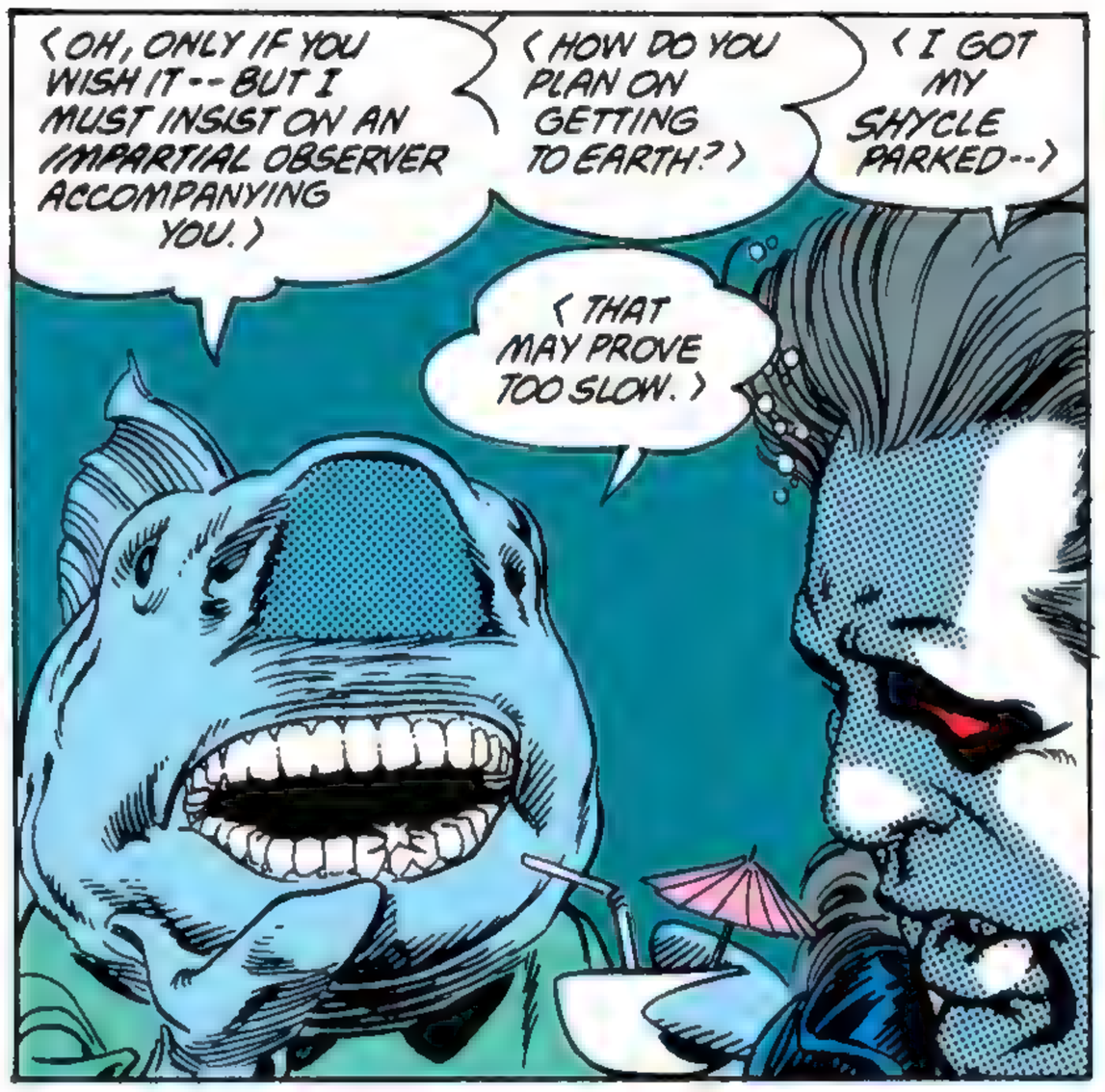
(EARTH? I BEEN THERE...; HIC:... JOKERS.)
(CHAMPIONS WERE A BUNCHA...; HIC: ... JOKERS.)


(SAAAAY...HOW 'BOUT WE OFFER THIS: KILL THE SUPERMAN, AND WE MAKE YOU RICH BEYOND BELIEF?)
(BARKEEP! MR. LOBO NEEDS MORE MEAD!)
(MAKE THAT... ; HIC:... TO GO, AND YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL.)

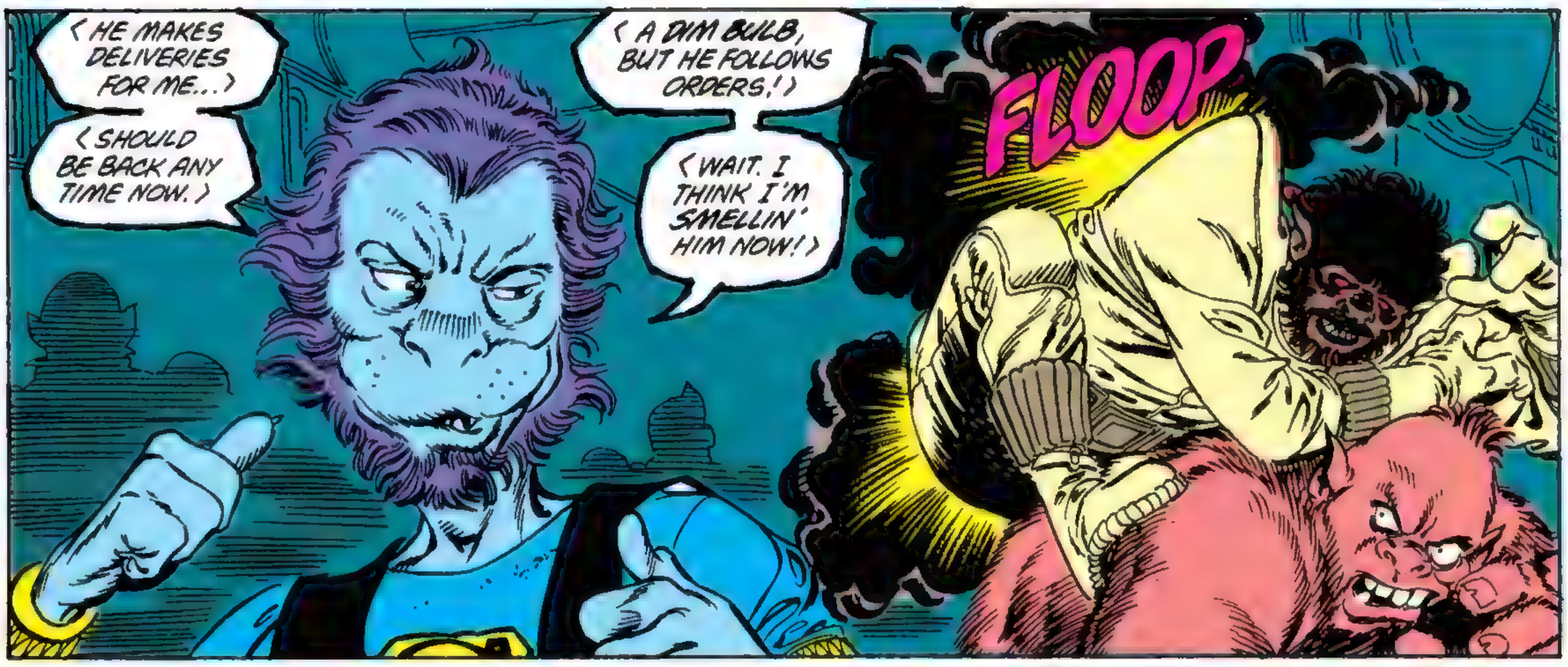
(TWO STIPULATIONS, GOOD SIR--FIRST, THAT YOU ENGAGE HIM BEFORE DRAAGA GETS TO HIM...)

(SECOND, WELL, WE'D LIKE A PICTO-RECORD OF THE BATTLE.)
(-; GLUB... HIC:)
(WE TWO ARE HOLO-CHIP TRADERS...)

(THESE RECORDERS ARE MARKETED BY US IN THIS SECTOR.)
(LOOK...; HIC:... STUPID.)
(COULDN'T I JUST BRING YOU HIS... ; HIC:...HEAD?)


〈OH, ONLY IF YOU WISH IT -- BUT I MUST INSIST ON AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER ACCOMPANYING YOU.〉
〈HOW DO YOU PLAN ON GETTING TO EARTH?〉
〈I GOT MY SHYCLE PARKED--〉
〈THAT MAY PROVE TOO SLOW.〉

〈HERE'S ANUDDER BLADDER O' BERRY-JUICE, MR. LOBO.〉
〈I HATE TO BUTT IN, BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN GET YOU ANYWHERES FAST!〉


〈HE MAKES DELIVERIES FOR ME...〉
〈SHOULD BE BACK ANY TIME NOW.〉
〈A DIM BULB, BUT HE FOLLOWS ORDERS!〉
〈WAIT. I THINK I'M SMELLIN' HIM NOW!〉
FLOOP

〈GENTLEMEN, MEET RAOF.〉
〈RAOF, LIKE TO GO ON A LONG TRIP WITH THIS FELLA HERE?〉
〈TELE... HIC PORTER?〉

〈'SOKAY... HIC ... YOU WEAR THESE AN' WE'LL GET ALONG FINE.〉
〈RAOF IS HONORED!〉

〈SHAAY, I... HIC ... LIKE YOU AWREADDY!〉
〈I WANT A PIECE OF THIS BET!〉
〈NICE DOGGY. HIC〉
〈THOUSAND CREDITS...〉
7

"<... ON SOOPERMAN"!>

NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE IS SAFE AND SOUND AT THE FORTRESS, IT'S TIME FOR CLARK KENT TO RESUME HIS DUTIES...

...AS *NEWS-TIME'S* MANAGING EDITOR.

MY CLOTHES ARE RIGHT WHERE I STASHED THEM-- GOOD THING THESE ARE PERMANENT PRESS!

IT'S SO CONVENIENT TO HAVE A TERRACE JUST OUTSIDE...

...THE WINDOWS TO MY OFFICE!

MY ASSISTANT MARA THINKS I'VE BEEN TOILING AWAY THIS PAST HOUR, SO I'D BETTER UNLOCK MY DOOR, AND GET SOME WORK DONE!

;SIGH; IT'S *NO* USE! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE.

I'D MUCH RATHER BE BACK IN THE ANTARCTIC, PORING OVER THE ARRAY OF RELICS THE *ARTIFACT* INSTALLED THERE!

AND *THAT'S* JUST WHAT I'M GOING TO DO! I'LL TELL MARA I'M TAKING THE *REST* OF THE DAY OFF!

BZZZZ

YES? OH, I HAVEN'T BOTHERED YOU, AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT YOUR MOM CALLED. SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY?

AND THERE'S A JAMES OLSEN HERE TO SEE YOU.

WHAT? I DON'T KNOW -- I'M *UNCOM-FORTABLE* WITH THAT.

YES, YOU *ARE* THE BOSS, MR. KENT. I'LL TELL HIM.

OOH! YOU STARTLED ME!

MR. KENT *CALLED* TO TELL YOU HE WON'T BE BACK AS HE'D PLANNED. HE'LL HAVE TO SEE YOU ANOTHER TIME.

I'VE BEEN HERE AN *HOUR*, AND *NOW* YOU TELL ME HE'S NOT IN HIS OFFICE?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? DIDN'T HE EVEN ASK WHAT I *WANTED*?

AND WHERE IN HECK WAS HE CALLING FROM? IS HE AT *HOME*?

I'M VERY SORRY. I EXPECTED HIM BACK BY NOW.

SURE.

THE *INTERCOM* BUTTON ON HER PHONE WAS *LIT!* THAT CALL CAME FROM CLARK'S OFFICE!

WHY'S HE DITCHING *ME?* HE WAS MY LAST HOPE.

CALL FIRST NEXT TIME, OKAY?

THERE WON'T *BE* A NEXT TIME!

MY ONLY HOPE NOW IS TO GET INTO THE PROJECT ON MY OWN.

THAT FELT LOUSY! JIMMY OLSEN IS A FRIEND OF MR. KENT'S.

HEY, MARA, HAVE YOU SEEN THE APPROVED COVER COPY YET?

NOT NOW.

OKAY.

CLARK KENT

YES, MOTHER. I'M RETURNING YOUR CALL NOW.

MR. KENT, WE HAVE TO TALK-- NOW.

MOTHER, I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU ON HOLD.

MARA, I EXPLICITLY ASKED NOT TO BE BOTHERED!

WHAT ON EARTH COULD BE SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO IGNORE MY REQUEST?

MY SENSE OF VALUES! LOOK, I JUST LIED FOR YOU. DON'T EVER ASK THAT OF ME AGAIN!

AND, ANOTHER THING-- THAT POOR FRIEND OF YOURS WAITED FOR A LONG TIME TO SEE YOU, ONLY TO BE TURNED AWAY.

SURELY YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST GIVEN HIM A FEW MINUTES...

DON'T PRESUME TO TELL ME MY BUSINESS, MISS TALBOT. I WAS HIRED TO PUT OUT A MAGAZINE, AND YOU'RE HERE TO ASSIST ME!

...AND NOT TO LIE FOR YOU!

I KNOW I'M JUST AN INTERN...

...BUT I WON'T DO YOUR DIRTY WORK!

;SIGH; MY LIFE IS SO MUCH SIMPLER AS SUPERMAN THAN AS CLARK KENT!!

YES, MOTHER, I'M BACK. OKAY, OKAY, I'LL BE THERE!

"BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG RUSH IS."

WHAT...:HIC:... WHAT'RE YOU *WAITIN'* FOR...:HIC:... SQUIRT?

RAOF MUST TRAVEL IN SHORT STEPS.

EARTH IS *FAR* PLACE.

RAOF MUST FIND "*BRIDGE*" BETWEEN JUMPS-- WE GO *NOW*...

...WE *FIND* ONE!

FLOOP

OOP!

HUH? WHAT WAS *THAT?* THERE AREN'T ANY ASTEROID BELTS IN THIS AREA!

DRAAGA, WAS THAT YOU?

HOMINAH-- HOMINAH-- *DRAAAA-GA!*

THAT *STENCH!* WHAT IS--?

MY *FOOT!*

FLOOP

YOU'RE DRAAGA?

YOUR-VEHICLE-IS-ON-MY-*FOOT!*

YOU *LOSER*, I'M GONNA GET TO...:HIC:... SUPERMAN *BEFORE* YOU DO!

RAOF, GET US OUTTA HERE!

'BYE, *LOSER!*

FLOOP

HAVEN'T HAD MUCH USE FOR THIS OLD *WRECK* OF MINE LATELY, BUT I'M GLAD I KEPT IT.

THE WAY THE ENGINE'S BURNING *OIL*, THOUGH, I PRAY IT CAN GET ME WHERE I WANT TO -- WHOA! MY EXIT!

87 NORTH UPSTATE

HONK!

YEAH, YEAH, GIMME A MAJOR BREAK!

FINDING PROJECT CADMUS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY...

THE GUARDIAN TOOK ME HOME FROM THERE ONCE BY MOTORCYCLE, AFTER THE NEWSBOY LEGION AND I GOT INTO THAT JAM! *

* *In Superman #37*

NORTH OF HERE IN THIS WOODED AREA LIES THE ENTRANCE TO AN UNDER-GROUND ROAD THAT LEADS INTO THE PROJECT.

IF I *BACKTRACK* THE ROUTE THE GUARDIAN TOOK, I'LL MAKE MY WAY TO *THAT* SPOT, AND *INTO* THE FACILITY!

I ONLY HOPE NO ONE *SHOOTS* ME FOR TRESPASSING!!

NORTHERN TERRITORY

KIRBY COUNTY

WINDSOR

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING THIS AS A *PRANK*...

...I RECENTLY LEARNED MY *NATURAL* FATHER WAS ONCE THE MILITARY'S *LIAISON* TO THE *PROJECT*. *

* *In Superman #39*

"ONE DAY, DAD WAS SENT AFTER TWO ESCAPEES FROM THE GENETICS LAB, MOKKARI AND SIMYAN, BUT INSTEAD FELL VICTIM TO THEM!

"NOW MY MOM, SEARCHING FOR DAD, HAS STUMBLED ONTO THEIR 'EVIL FACTORY' AND INTO THEIR HANDS!"

CADMUS

OLSEN

SOMEONE IN THE PROJECT'S GOT TO *KNOW* SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THIS -- *SOMEONE'S* GOT TO HELP ME *SAVE* HER!

"I FEEL JUST TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS, LANA."

"OH, MARTHA, I'M USED TO MY PLACE ON THE TOTEM POLE. A MUDSLIDE IN PERU TAKES PRIORITY OVER A PARTY IN SMALLVILLE!"

AS SUPERMAN, HE BELONGS TO THE WORLD.

YOU *KNOW* HE'LL DO HIS BEST TO SHOW.

IT'S JUST NOT LIKE OUR CLARK TO *MISS* YOUR *BIRTHDAY.*

WHY, HE RARELY MISSES ONE OF MY "*SPECIAL*" MEALS!

'CEPT THAT ONE TIME WHEN THE "*SPECIAL*" WAS *BEEF KIDNEY STEW!*

CLARK AND I *BOTH* SKIPPED THAT ONE IN FAVOR OF MALTS AT POP SCHIFF'S SODA SHOPPE!

MARTHA, CAN I *HELP* WITH THOSE DISHES?

OH NO, *DEAR.*

WELL! WHAT'S THIS BOX DOING UNDER THE TABLE? IT'S ADDRESSED TO *YOU,* LANA.

CAN'T HOLD UP THIS SHOW MUCH LONGER WAITING ON CLARK.

IT WAS LIKE PULLING TEETH TO GET HIM TO AGREE TO COME HERE--LANA THINKS THE WORLD OF HIM, TOO.

Happy Birthday

TA-DA. YOUR FAVORITE--GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE!

OHHH, THE CALORIES, THE CALORIES! I'M BLIMPING OUT JUST *LOOKING* AT IT!

AND WHAT A FRIEND! ONLY *EIGHT* CANDLES!

THE TWO OF YOU ARE *SO* GOOD TO ME. THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD MAKE THIS *PERFECT* WOULD BE FOR CLARK TO--

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

BLOW OUT THE CANDLES AND LET'S *EAT!*

SMI--*OH!*

WHOOOSHH

CLARK!!

GREETINGS.

I'M SO *GLAD* YOU COULD BE HERE!

WHERE *ARE* YOUR MANNERS, SON?

MAW'S RIGHT. YOU GONNA LET THIS GAL *LIMP* ACROSS THE ROOM FOR HER BIRTHDAY KISS?

SMACK!

LAST TIME ONE OF MY KISSES GOT THAT REACTION...

...WE WERE IN THE THIRD GRADE AND I WAS AN "ICKEY" GIRL!

UM, CAKE ANYONE?

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

WHAT'S WRONG? EAT YOUR MOM'S CAKE OR THEY'LL BOTH BE MAD AT YOU.

'LEAST UNTIL YOU GIVE LANA HER PRESENT!

I DIDN'T THINK TO BRING HER ANYTHING.

CLARK, SIT DOWN, I'LL GET YOU SOME MILK.

OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE OUT OF COSTUME FIRST?

I AM COMFORTABLE, THANK YOU.

SIT WITH LANA!

KRYPTONIANS NEVER DID MUCH TO CELEBRATE THE PASSING OF YEARLY LIFE-SPANS, LIKE EARTHLINGS DO.

FASCINATING, CLARK.

RAOF HAS FOUND *ANOTHER* BRIDGE IN THE EARTH'S SOL SYSTEM.

LET'S GET THE ..:HIC:...*FLOOP* OVER WIT' THEN, STINKY!

"*HAPPY WANDERER*", COME IN. HOW'S IT COMING ALONG OUT THERE?

USV N

FLOOP

I'M NOT SURE. I SWEAR I JUST HEARD SOMETHING...

THIS IS CRAZY, IT WAS A WEIRD "FLOOPY" KIND OF--!

UH, IS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DOING ANYTHING WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUT HERE?

:HIC:... THE *NATIVES* ARE DAMN UGLY 'ROUND H... :HIC:...HERE.

RAOF GETS US VERY CLOSE *NEXT* TIME.

"*THIRD PLANET ORBITS SOL-- NEAR CITY WHERE THE SUPERMAN DWELLS.*"

FLOOP

TEXAIR

"*THREE HOURS FROM METROPOLIS TO PARIS BY CONCORDE, YET SUPERMAN CAN TRAVEL IT IN MINUTES!*"

WHY SUCH POWER SHOULD BE WASTED ON THAT OVER-DEVELOPED MEATHEAD IS BEYOND--?

HUH?

WHAT *IS* IT, LEXY?

:SIGH: *BATTLE FATIGUE*, I SUPPOSE, CHLOE.

YEP...:HIC:... DEFINITELY *UGLY* NATIVES.

SO *THIS*... :HIC:... IS METROP'LIS?

SU-SU-SUPERMAN... ;HIC:...LIVES *HERE*?

WHAT A DUMP...;HIC:!

SAY, LOOK DOWN THERE.

RAOF DOES NOT SEE. *WHERE*?

RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. ;*HIC*:...ARE YOU BLIND?

OR...;*HIC*:... DON'T YOU READ THE LANGUAGE?

SUPERMAN'S Pal

HE'S A FRIEND OF OUR *TARGET*...;*HIC*:...

...SO'S WE BETTER FOLLOW HIM!

'COURSE IT WAS A *LONG* TRIP, AN' SOME DRINKIN'LL HAVE TO BE...;*HIC*: ...DONE.

ACE O' CLUBS

PLEASURE 'FORE BUSINESS, OL' *STINKAROO!*

I WORKED UP A *MIGHTY THIRST*... ;*HIC*:... *SHEESH!* I'M *ALMOST* SOBER.

CRASH

KOOLA BEER

CIRCUS IS IN TOWN, *RIGHT?*

RAOF NOT KNOW. MR. LOBO DESIRES A *STRONG* GROG.

MAKE IT *TWO* STRONG GROGS!

AND SAY, WHERE *DOES* THIS... ;*HIC*:... SUPERMAN LIVE?

CLOWN-FACE BETTER LET *GO* OF BIBBO'S FAV'RIT' SHIRT!

I'M LOOKIN' TO *KICK* SUPERMAN'S ...;*HIC*:...BUTT!

SOOPERMAN'S MY *PAL!* YOU WANNA EVEN *MENTION* HIM, YOU GOTTA BE *TOUGH*, CLOWN!

GIMME *ROOM*, STINKY!

HAW! MEBBE HE'S A *MIME!*

BIBBO HATES MIMES--

;*OOOF!*;

WANG

HAW HAW! I KNOW *I'M* TOUGH-- HOW 'BOUT *YOU?*

ARE YOU *ALL* AS *DUMB* AS *THIS* BULK-HEAD?

PLEASE DON'T WRECK MY BAR!

THIS JERK DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO...;*HIC*:... ...LAY DOWN AND *PLAY DEAD.*

HE'S GOT *SPUNK*-- AND I STILL MAY *KILL*...;*HIC*:... HIM...

WHUMP!

...BUT FIRST WE *DRINK!*

YOU *ARE* TOUGH! DRINKS ARE ON *BIBBO!* FER YER *DOGGIE*, TOO!

TELL ME ABOUT... ;*HIC*:... SUPERMAN...

"...AND HOW I CAN... ;HIC;...FIND HIM."

;UGHH!; MY ARMS-- THEY ACHE!

WELL, EVEN IF MY CAR WAS STILL RUNNING, I DON'T THINK IT'D *MAKE* IT UP THIS HILL!

WHEN I REACH THE *TOP*-- ;HUFF;-- I SHOULD GET A BEARING ON THE ENTRANCE TO THE PROJECT--

--PROVIDED THIS *IS* THE RIGHT HILL IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THANK GOD! THERE'S THAT ABANDONED ~~TREE~~ CITY, HABITAT, RIGHT WHERE I REMEMBERED IT!

STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO, BUT AT LEAST I KNOW I'M HEADED IN THE *RIGHT* DIRECTION.

I'D *LIKE* TO REST A MINUTE...

...BUT WITH MY MOM'S *LIFE* AT STAKE, I'D BETTER NOT WASTE THE--!

OOPS!

CRUMBLE

LET YOUR BODY GO LIMP...

...I'VE GOT YOU!

JIMMY--WHAT IN HECK ARE YOU *DOING* IN THE "*WILD AREA*"?

THIS PLACE IS OFF LIMITS TO CIVILIANS! ARE YOU HURT?

NO. I *HAVE* TO GET TO THE ZOOM-WAY AND INTO THE PROJECT.

ON *FOOT*? THAT PLACE IS BOOBY-TRAPPED FIVE WAYS TO SUNDAY!

I *HAD* TO GET IN, GUARDIAN--IT'S ABOUT MY *FATHER*.

I FOUND OUT *MY* LONG LOST DAD WAS INVOLVED WITH *CADMUS* AS MILITARY LIAISON WHEN HE VANISHED!

COMMANDER JAMES OLSEN...

DON'T KNOW THE NAME, BUT THEN I'M NOT PRIVVY TO *ALL* THE PROJECT'S SECRETS.

HE NEVER RETURNED FROM HIS LAST MISSION...

...WHICH WAS TO BRING IN TWO *MONSTERS* WHO'D ESCAPED -- MOKKARI AND SIMYAN -- TO SOME GENETICS LAB.

SON--I THINK WE *BOTH* BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH THE HEAD HONCHOS...

"...CAUSE I THINK SOMEONE'S BEEN HOLDING OUT ON THE TWO OF US!

♫ DOO DOO DOODY-DOO ♫

〈YOU IMBECILE! WILL YOU GET ON WITH IT?!〉

〈HOW LONG MUST I ENDURE BEFORE YOU ENGAGE THIS VEHICLE'S *HYPERDRIVE?*〉

〈HOMINAH HOMINAH HOMINAH...〉

〈LOOK, PAL, THIS BABY'S ***TRANSITRON*** NEEDS TO BE WARMED UP BEFORE I'LL JUMP INTO HYPER!〉

〈THE OPERATION OF THIS SHIP IS *YOUR* CONCERN, I AGREE...〉

〈...MY CONCERN IS IN CONFRONTING THE SUPERMAN!〉

〈IF THAT ASSASSIN, LOBO, GETS TO THE KRYPTONIAN *FIRST*...〉

〈...I WILL MAKE HIM DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS...〉

〈...*AFTER* I HAVE *KILLED YOU!*〉

〈HA-HOMINAH. H-HEY, WHATAYA KNOW -- TRANSITRON'S ALL WARMED UP AND READY FOR LIGHT SPEED!〉

"*WOW, MR. LOBO, YOU SURE ARE GOIN' FAST!*"

RAOF FEELS... HIC ...SICK!

DIS IS *ALMOST* AS FAST AS SOOPERMAN, I BET...HICE!

QUIET, YOU *MORONSSS* ...HIC... I'M TRACKIN' SOOPERMAN!

UH, RAOF IS NOT SURE HE CAN SEE STRAIGHT.

BIBBO MUST WEAR *PICTO-VISORS... ;HIC:!*

WOW, RALPH, DESE ARE... ;*HIC:*... *GRR-REAT!*

YOU'D BETTER NOT TRASH THOSE... ;*HI-HIC:*... THEY GOTTA RECORD SOO-SOOPERMAN'SSS DEATH!

I GOT A LOT O' *WEALTH*... ;*HIC:*... ON THE LINE FER *PROOF* OF HIS *DEMISE!*

HE-*HEY*, MR. LOBO... ;*HICCUP:*... SUPES IS PRETTY *TOUGH!*

I'M TOUGH, TOO --THE DIFFERENCE ... ;*HIC:*... IS THAT I DON'T GIVE UP!

I'LL KEEP AT 'IM 'TIL ... ;*HIC:*... HE'S *DEAD!*

HEADS UP--IT'S *DYIN'* TIME... ;*HIC:!*

I *FEEL* HIS PRESENCE ... ;*HIC:*... AROUND HERE *SOMEWHERE...*

GEEZ, I HOPE MY *PAL* IS HOME, 'CAUSE IT'S *REAL* ... ;*HIC:*... *COLD HERE...*

AN' I THINK I HAVETA GO TO THE BAFROOM. ;*HICCUP:!*

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ADVENTURES OF

SUPERMAN #464

NEXT JOIN US IN ACTION #651: "MAXIMA"

THEN COME BACK HERE FOR DEATH-RITE AS DRAAGA AND KR'AAMDYN TAKE MANHATTAN!

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON™

ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERING * GLENN WHITMORE - COLORING * JONATHAN PETERSON - FUSSING * MIKE CARLIN - SWEATING

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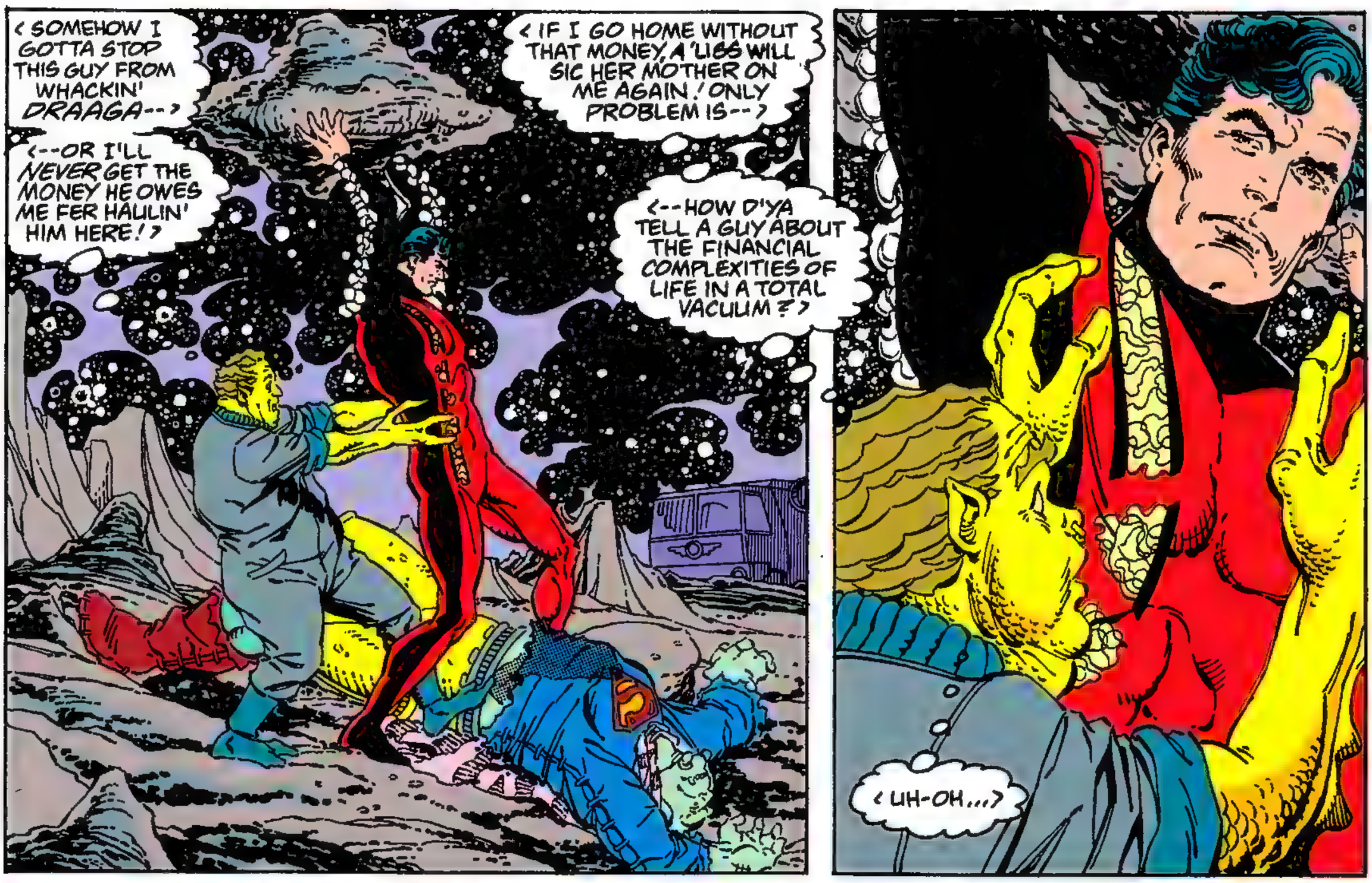
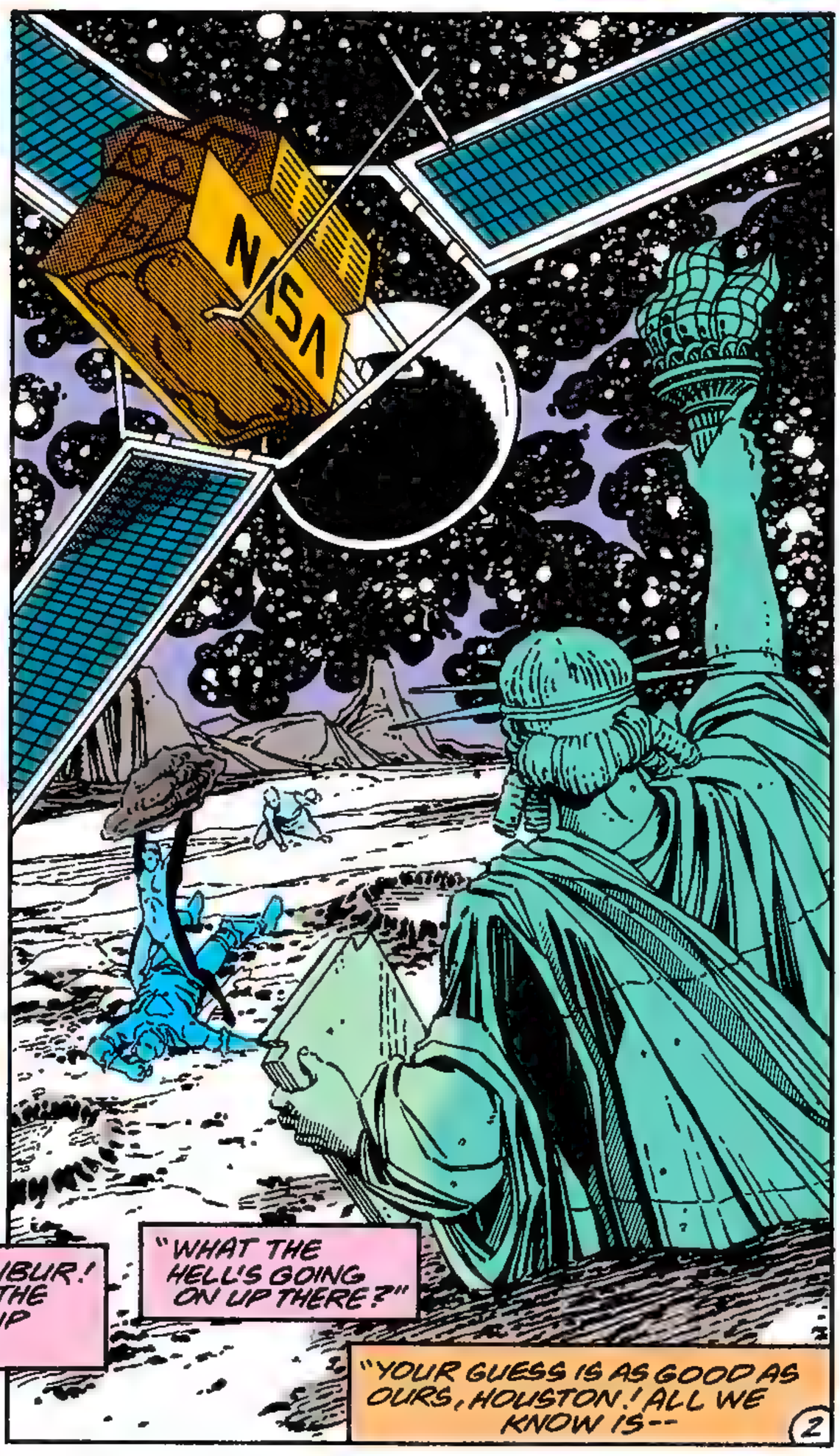

< SOMEHOW I GOTTA STOP THIS GUY FROM WHACKIN' DRAAGA-->

< UH-OH...>

WAUKK!
"HOUSTON CONTROL TO TEAM EXCALIBUR --YOU GUYS LISTENING?"
" WE COPY, HOUSTON. YOU BOYS SHOULD BE GETTING QUITE AN EYEFUL!"
"AFFIRMATIVE, EXCALIBUR! EVERY NETWORK IN THE WORLD IS PICKING UP THE FEED!


NASA
"WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON UP THERE?"
"YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS, HOUSTON! ALL WE KNOW IS--

--IS THAT SOMEONE PUT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY ON THE MOON AND DECIDED TO MAKE A BOXING RING OUT OF IT!

YOUR SATELLITE IS DOING AN A-1 JOB PICKING UP THE ACTION, HOUSTON! I'LL MOVE IT IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!

YOU THINK THAT'S REALLY SUPERMAN IN THE BLACK GET-UP, HANK?

MUST BE. LOOKS LIKE THAT WEIRD, BIG GUY SWIPED HIS OLD SUIT! NOW, GET BACK TO THOSE RADIATION TESTS, KID!

ON MY WAY!

I'M TELLING YOU, MARTHA, THAT I JUST PLAIN DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!

SURE AS SHOOTIN', THAT'S OUR BOY CLARK, ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT THE SAM HILL IS HE DOIN' IN THOSE CLOTHES?

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, JONATHAN! *TERRIBLY* WRONG!

CLARK LOOKS SO COLD AND DISTANT! I'VE *NEVER* SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT OUTFIT IS FAMILIAR BUT I CAN'T PLACE IT!

GOOD LORD! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SWEAR CLARK WAS ABOUT TO--

--KILL THAT *ALIEN*! SOMEBODY HAD BETTER BE WRITING THIS UP--WHAT A STORY!

STORY?! A FRIEND OF OURS IS ABOUT TO TAKE A LIFE AND ALL YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT IS A *STORY*?!

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THAT SUPERMAN ON THE MOON MAY NOT BE OUR FRIEND ANY MORE!

CA-A-A-T!

GOOD GOING, EMIL, YOU'VE *REALLY* BLOWN IT THIS TIME!

FIGURED I DID THE RIGHT THING BY TRANSPORTING SUPERMAN AND THAT MONSTER AWAY FROM NEW YORK...

...BUT I REALLY SCREWED THIS ALL UP!

SOMEHOW, THAT SATELLITE LAUNCHED BY EXCALIBUR INTERFERED WITH MY TRANSPORTER--

--AND I WOUND UP SENDING HALF OF LADY LIBERTY ALL THE WAY TO THE *MOON* WITH THOSE BOYS!

NEW YORK IS SAFE, BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO BRING SUPERMAN BACK BEFORE HE MAKES A *TRAGIC* MISTAKE!

IT'LL TAKE ALL THE JUICE I CAN SQUEEZE OUT OF THIS CITY-SECTOR TO REACH THE MOON--

--BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK--

"--I'LL HAVE SUPERMAN UP ON MY ROOF IN A JIFFY!"

:GULP:< LOOKS LIKE I CAN KISS DRAAGA AND HIS MONEY GOODBYE!>

ZZZT!

I DID IT! IT WORKED!

BRAMMM

PROFESSOR EMIL HAMILTON.

I SUSPECTED YOU WERE ENGINEERING THESE TRANSPORTATIONS--

--FOR THE PHYSICAL SENSATIONS CAUSED BY THAT MECHANISM ARE NOT EASILY FORGOTTEN.

YOUR MOTIVATIONS, HOWEVER, MYSTIFY ME.

MYSTIFY YOU?! SUPERMAN, YOU WERE ABOUT TO KILL DRAAGA!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE TRAUMA YOU WENT THROUGH AFTER YOU KILLED THOSE CRIMINALS FROM THAT OTHER DIMENSION?!

A MINOR EVENT IN MY PAST.

DRAAGA WAS SO ANGRY WITH ME FOR NOT KILLING HIM WHEN I DEFEATED HIM IN BATTLE EARLIER THAT HE ATTACKED ME.

HIS RACE RECOGNIZES DEATH IN BATTLE AS A POINT OF HONOR.

THEREFORE--

"--IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL THAT I RESPECT HIS CULTURE AND TAKE HIS LIFE."

"I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING!"

<FROM NOW ON IT'S CASH UP FRONT AND NO NEGOTIATING!>

< I'D JUST AS SOON ABANDON THIS STIFF HERE, BUT I'VE JUST *GOT* TO COLLECT! >

< IT SURE AIN'T MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME HAULIN' THIS LOSER AROUND THE GALAXY--? >

<-- BUT I'D RATHER DEAL WITH *HIS* ANGER THAN FACE THE *WRATH OF A'LISS* ANY DAY! >

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CAVALIER ABOUT TAKING A LIFE! IT'S DOWN-RIGHT *IMMORAL!*

MORALITY WEARS MANY FACES. IS IT NOT MORAL TO GRANT DRAAGA THAT WHICH HE SEEKS?

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU LATELY, ANYWAY? WHY ARE YOU WEARING THESE WEIRD CLOTHES--

--AND WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO DIFFERENTLY-- SO DETACHED?

CALM YOURSELF.

MY LIFE IS NOW AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE. FAREWELL, PROFESSOR EMIL HAMILTON.

SUPERMAN, *WAIT!*

THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH YOU!

"REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WHEN YOU TRIED TO HANDLE YOUR PROBLEMS ALONE--

"--HOW YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE?

"DON'T YOU REMEMBER--

"--GANGBUSTER?!"

GREAT. JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.

ACCOUNT CANCLE

EVICTION NOTICE

THIRD BILLING

JOSE DELGADO SOMEWHERE

PAYMENT OVERDUE

PAYMENT

Seaboard Phon

BAD ENOUGH THAT LEXCORP BOUGHT THE BUILDING AND EVICTED ME--

--I MUST OWE MONEY TO EVERY CORPORATION IN THE CITY AND I DON'T HAVE A NICKEL FOR ANY OF 'EM.

YOU'RE SOME KINDA MAN, DELGADO.

WHAT THE HECK DID I EVER DO TO DESERVE ALL THIS?

FIRST I TEMPORARILY LOSE THE USE OF MY LEGS AND GET TURNED INTO ONE OF LUTHOR'S STOOGES--

--AND THEN THINGS WITH LOIS COMPLETELY FIZZLE OUT! AND AS FOR CAREER POSSIBILITIES--

--THINGS STINK! NO JOB, NO MONEY! AND NO MONEY--

--NO APARTMENT!

NO WONDER LOIS GREW MORE DISTANT. SHE MUST KNOW A BORN LOSER WHEN SHE SEES ONE.

FACE IT, DELGADO--

--YOU GOTTA GET YOUR LIFE MOVIN' AGAIN!

"LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME, MARA! IS KENT READY TO SEE ME OR NOT?"

"I'M SORRY, MR. THORNTON, BUT HIS NOTE SAYS HE IS NOT TO BE SEEN BY ANYONE--NO EXCEPTIONS!"

"NO EXCEPTIONS?! WHO DOES THAT KENT THINK HE IS?

"I THINK IT'S TIME I PUT THIS KENT IN HIS PLACE!"

RU--?! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR *SENSES*, KENT?

IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IT, I'M THE ONE WHO SIGNS *YOUR* PAYCHECKS!

KENT!

I HOPE THIS IS IMPORTANT, COLLIN THORNTON.

FOR I CONSIDER IT RATHER RUDE OF YOU TO VIOLATE MY REQUEST FOR PRIVACY.

INDEED. SO YOU SHOULD REALIZE THE VALUE OF ALLOWING ME TO PERFORM MY JOB.

THIS IMPROMPTU CONFERENCE IS INTERFERING WITH THAT TASK.

YOUR TASK? YOUR TASK?!

AS MY EMPLOYEE, YOUR TASK IS TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS!

AND <u>MY</u> ORDERS ARE TO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER AND KNOCK OFF THE STORM TROOPER BIT!

I ASSUME YOU ARE REFERRING TO MY NECESSARY DISMISSAL OF SEVERAL INEFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THIS STAFF.

NECESSARY?! SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR YEARS AND YOU HEARTLESSLY FIRED THEM!

CONSIDER THIS AN ORDER, KENT--

--AND HIRE THOSE PEOPLE BACK *PRONTO!*

THEN YOU ARE ASKING ME TO PERFORM MY JOB AT A LESSER LEVEL--A REQUEST WITH WHICH I CANNOT ABIDE.

THEN HAVE IT YOUR WAY, KENT! *YOU'RE FIRED!*

GET OUT OF MY BUILDING!

AS YOU WISH.

FAREWELL.

Y'KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE TAKE UNEMPLOYMENT SO CALMLY! THE GUY HAS ICE WATER IN HIS VEINS!

THAT, MY DEAR--

--IS PRECISELY WHY HE HAD TO GO.

WOW, GARRISON, DID YOU SEE THAT SHIP GO ZIPPING AWAY FROM OLD LUNA?

SURE DID, KID! AND GRIZZLED OLD PILOT THAT I AM--

NASA

Excalibur

--I'D LOVE TO GET A CRACK AT FLYING THAT PUPPY!

AW, GIVE ME A '63 CORVETTE AND A WIDE OPEN STRETCH OF HIGHWAY ANY DAY!

NASA

YOU'RE WEIRD, KID.

COULD YOU TWO QUIET DOWN? THIS RADIATION EXPERIMENT IS EXCEEDINGLY DELICATE AND CONCENTRATION IS *VITAL*!

GEEZ, SEND A MARRIED COUPLE INTO SPACE AND THEY TAKE OVER THE WHOLE SHIP!

TEAM EXCALIBUR

HANK, WE HAVE A PROBLEM DEVELOPING.

I'M RECORDING INCREDIBLE SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY-- STRONGEST I'VE EVER SEEN!

GOOD LORD! IF IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO TRIP THE CALIBRATION OF THIS EQUIPMENT AT THIS DISTANCE--

TEAM EXCALIBUR

"--WE COULD BE IN FOR SOME MAJOR TROUBLE!!!"

NO-- THE CONTAMINATION SEAL HAS *BROKEN*!

CLANG-A-LANG-A-CLANG

EXCORP

ABORT MISSION! ABORT MISSION!

NASA

"OH, CLARK, I'M SO GLAD I CAUGHT YOU BEFORE YOU GOT TO YOUR APARTMENT!"

344 CLINTON

HELLO, ANDREA MCELROY. WHY ARE YOU SO GLAD?

WELLLL... THE BUILDING MANAGER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU EARLIER. HE'S... UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.

I WAS UNAWARE I HAD DONE ANYTHING TO DISTURB HIM.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DID, MORE LIKE THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU JUST *LIVE* HERE!

Y'KNOW HOW THAT *PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR* GOT KILLED HERE AND THEN THERE WAS THAT *EXPLOSION*?

THERE'VE BEEN OTHER THINGS TOO, AND ALL IN ALL... WELL, MANAGEMENT CONSIDERS YOU A *BAD RISK*!

INTERESTING.

Notice of Eviction

Hexagon Building Management regrets to inform you that your lease has been terminated. Your last day of residen... is to be the last day of March, Nin... Failure to comply with the... legal proceedings an... may result i... abov...

ENT

SO--

--IT SEEMS I MUST HONOR THEIR WISHES.

AREN'T YOU *MAD*?! IF I WERE YOU I'D BE LINING UP ONE GOOD MEAN, FIERY LAWYER!

AN UNECESSARY MEASURE. THIS ABODE HOLDS NO SPECIAL MEANING FOR ME AND MANAGEMENT'S DECISION--

--IS A LOGICAL ONE.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME. A CALLER WISHES TO CONVERSE.

UHH...SURE. GOOD LUCK, CLARK.

WOW--SINCE WHEN DID *HE* TURN INTO SUCH A *STIFF*?

BRINNG

BRIN*

GOOD GRAVY, CLARK, WHAT'S GOING ON? WE WERE WATCHING YOU ON THE TUBE AND THEN--, FFFT--

--YOU DISAPPEARED!

CLARK, ARE YOU THERE?

INDEED I AM, JONATHAN KENT.

YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT ME THOUGH, FOR I AM QUITE WELL.

OF COURSE WE'RE GONNA WORRY--WE'RE YOUR *PARENTS*, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

IN POINT OF FACT, THAT IS NOT CORRECT. MY PARENTS ARE KRYPTONIAN.

CLARK...?

YOU SOUND SO... COLD. WHY? WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, SON?

NOTHING. SOON ENOUGH EVERYTHING WILL BE IN PERFECT ORDER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PERFECT? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

I NO LONGER SEE ANY REASON TO LIVE THE LIVES OF TWO MEN, JONATHAN KENT.

CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN WILL SOON CEASE TO EXIST. THERE WILL BE ONLY--

--KAL-EL.

NOW I KNOW WHY THAT GET-UP YOU WERE WEARING ON THE MOON SEEMED SO FAMILIAR!

IT LOOKS KIND OF LIKE THOSE ROBES YOUR KRYPTONIAN FATHER WORE IN THAT IMAGE I SAW OF HIM!*

BUT THAT SURE DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU WANT TO CHUCK YOUR LIFE AS CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN!

*MAN OF STEEL #6.

LITTLE LOGIC EXISTS IN ONE MAN LIVING TWO LIVES.

MY KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE IS THE ONE I MUST FOLLOW.

FAREWELL, JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT.

CLARK?

CLARK!

HE...HE... HUNG UP ON ME!

NO... HE'D NEVER DO THAT... UNLESS--

OUR BOY NEEDS US, MARTHA.

I'LL CALL LANA AND ASK HER TO PICK US UP. YOU CAN GRAB THE SUITCASES AND START PACKING.

"PACKING?! LAND SAKES, JONATHAN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?!"

EVERYBODY MAKE LIKE A STATUE NOW!

First Metropolis

First Metropolis

THAT'S BETTA.

NOW, WE'S GONNA MAKE US ONE FINE WITHDRAWAL HERE TODAY--

EXPRESS

--AND IF ANY OF YOU SO MUCH AS TWITCHES, THIS HERE BANK LOBBY IS GONNA HAVE A WHOLE LOTTA *BUSTED* STATUES!

NOW I'M GONNA PASS THIS BRIEFCASE AROUND--

--AND YOU TELLERS IS GONNA LOAD IT UP WITH ALL THE SWEET GREEN I CAN CARRY!

FILL 'ER UP WITH PREMIUM, BABE!

Y-YES, SIR!

OH, MAMA, WE GOT *TROUBLE!*

Beep

SOMEONE'S HIT AN ALARM AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE COPS CRAWLIN' ALL OVER US REAL QUICK!

YOU FOLKS JUST HAD TO BE *STOOPID*, DINT'CHA? WELL, NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY THE PRICE!

CURRENT YIELDS

SKRREEEE

I'M TELLIN' YOU, WE'RE GONNA BE KNEE DEEP IN BLUE ANY SECOND!

WON'T MATTER ONE BIT! I GOT OUR SHIELD RIGHT HERE!

NOW LET'S GET GOIN'!

BANK

MOVE IT, MOVE IT!

HURRY IT UP, YOU GUYS! I THINK I HEAR SIRENS!

HEY, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS HOSTAGE STUFF...

SHADDUP! YOU GONNA DEAL WITH COPS, YOU GOTTA HAVE A LEVER!

SO QUIT JABBERIN' AND GET THE DAME IN THE CAR!

HEY, WHO THE HECK IS THAT?!

NAME'S GANGBUSTER, GENTLEMEN--

--AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR OUT OF THIS ROBBERY!

SKASSSHH

Bedford Cl

Drive Up Bank

:UNGH:

YOU TRY THIS STUFF IN METROPOLIS, YOU END UP DEALING WITH ME!

OR HAVEN'T YOU BEEN READING THE PAPERS LATELY... BANK HOLD-UPS'RE MY SPECIALTY!

MY ARM! MY ARM! YOU BROKE IT!

WAY I SEE IT, FOOL, IS THAT YOU'RE JUST ONE LONE IDIOT--

--AGAINST A WHOLE LOTTA FIRE POWER!

DOWN!

Drive Up Bank

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

I DID IT! I SAVED THE GIRL... BUT FOR HOW LONG?

"THINGS ARE GETTIN' PRETTY HOT, TOPSIDE!"

WHAT THE--? MY GUN'S ON FIRE!

YEEOWWW!

OH, MY GOSH.

THOSE WHO ENDANGER THE LIVES OF INNOCENTS REPULSE ME.

THEREFORE--

irst Metropolis Bank

--YOU MUST BE DEALT WITH.

SUPERMAN?

GEEZ! IF ANY OF US HAD BEEN IN THAT CAR, WE'D BE *FRIED*!

MY INTENT IS NOT TO KILL--

--ONLY TO TEMPORARILY DISABLE UNTIL YOUR JUSTICE OFFICIALS ARRIVE.

HOLY SMOKES! SINCE WHEN DID THE BIG GUY GET SO--

--ROUGH?

WHUNK

HEY, *SUPERCOP*, HOW ABOUT YOU COME DOWN HERE SO WE CAN TALK!

AS YOU REQUEST.

YOU HAD TO DO IT, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU JUST HAD TO HORN IN AGAIN AND STEAL MY THUNDER!

I AM PUZZLED BY YOUR REACTION TO MY SAVING YOUR LIFE.

WHAT DO YOU DO, ANYWAY?
FOLLOW ME AROUND UNTIL YOU SEE I'M JUST ABOUT TO MAKE MY MOVE--
--AND THEN WRAP THINGS UP, SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MY OWN PERSONAL *GUARDIAN ANGEL!*
CERTAINLY NOT.
TO COMMIT ONE'S TIME TO A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL IS TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF COUNTLESS OTHERS.

YEAH, BUT I HAD THIS SITUATION *UNDER CONTROL!*
I'M TIRED OF YOU *BUTTING IN!*
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF EGO TRIP YOU'RE ON WITH THAT WILD WEIRD NEW GET-UP AND ALL--

--BUT THE LAST THING I NEED IS SOME BLASTED *ALIEN* MAKING ME LOOK BAD! YOU THINK WE'RE HELPLESS WITHOUT YOU--
--BUT I'VE GOT A NEWSFLASH FOR YOU!
WE DON'T NEED YOU!

AND I--
--MOST CERTAINLY DO NOT NEED YOU.

SHOULD I TRY TO PREVENT EVERY CRIME, SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM, AND ADDRESS EVERY CONCERN I WOULD STILL FAIL MISERABLY.
YOU HUMANS ARE SIMPLY TOO IMPERFECT BY NATURE.
HEY, NOW, JUST A SEC--

WITH THAT IN MIND, IT SEEMS TIME I ABANDON EARTH'S UNSOLVABLE CONCERNS--
--AND SEE TO THE MANY MATTERS THAT REQUIRE THE KRYPTONIAN TOUCH.
FAREWELL, JOSE DELGADO.
FAREWELL? LIKE IN *FOREVER?*

"MAYBE I DID COME ON A LITTLE STRONG..."

WE JUST CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THE RIDE TO THE AIRPORT, LANA.

American Air

TAXI STAND

NO PROBLEM, JONATHAN--

--AND I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO WATCH THE FARM AS WELL!

YOU'RE A SWEETIE, KIDDO--NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

LANA, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME ALONG?

NO. ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, CATEGORICALLY--

--NO! SINCE CLARK DOESN'T HAVE ROOM FOR ME IN HIS LIFE WHEN THINGS ARE GOOD--

--I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE *USED* WHEN THINGS ARE BAD.

"YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO METROPOLIS WITHOUT ME."

PLANET

PERRY! LOIS! HAVE YOU HEARD?

QUIET DOWN, CAT! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE ON THE PHONE WITH *NASA*?

OKAYYY, BUT I JUST FIGURED YOU MIGHT CARE THAT A *TRUE* OLD FRIEND OF OURS IS MAKING PUBLISHING NEWS AGAIN!

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW LADY LIBERTY GOT TO THE MOON?

AN OLD CONTACT -- WHO SHALL REMAIN NAMELESS -- JUST CALLED AND TOLD ME THAT CLARK KENT HAD BEEN *FIRED* FROM *NEWSTIME!*

GREAT SCOTT!

WHY? I'D HEARD HE WAS DOING SO WELL!

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT CLARK.

I'VE CHECKED ALL HIS USUAL HAUNTS AND I CAN'T FIND A TRACE OF HIM ANYWHERE!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW COULD THORNTON FIRE A BORN EDITOR LIKE KENT?

THAT'S NOT ALL! WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR CLARK I WENT OVER TO HIS PLACE AND YOU KNOW WHAT I FOUND?

AN EVICTION NOTICE!

CLARK'S GETTING THROWN OUT OF HIS APARTMENT TOO!

"I COULDN'T EVEN REACH HIS PARENTS IN SMALLVILLE...!"

WE COULDN'T HELP HIM WHEN HE HAD PROBLEMS BEFORE, JONATHAN!

SO, THERE'S THE PLAN, MARTHA! SOON AS WE HIT METROPOLIS WE'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR CLARK'S APARTMENT AND STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT!

WHAT IF WE CAN'T HELP HIM NOW?

"HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE NOT TOO LATE?"

EASTAIR

HOW COULD I HAVE LET THIS HAPPEN?

ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS PROTECT LADY LIBERTY--

--AND I WOUND UP DISSECTING HER AND LEAVING PART OF HER ON THE MOON!

AND SUPERMAN, POOR SUPERMAN...

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE BURIED HIMSELF IN ANOTHER IDENTITY AND BECAME A FAIRLY VIOLENT GANGBUSTER!

NOW HE'S ASSUMED THIS NEW PERSONA-- A PURE KRYPTONIAN ONE FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS.

"THE PROBLEM--HOW DO WE BRING HIM BACK?"

I'VE NEVER DARED SPEAK OF IT TO JONATHAN, BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.

"MUCH AS WE TRY TO DENY IT, CLARK'S NOT ONE OF US.

"WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT HIS KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE--

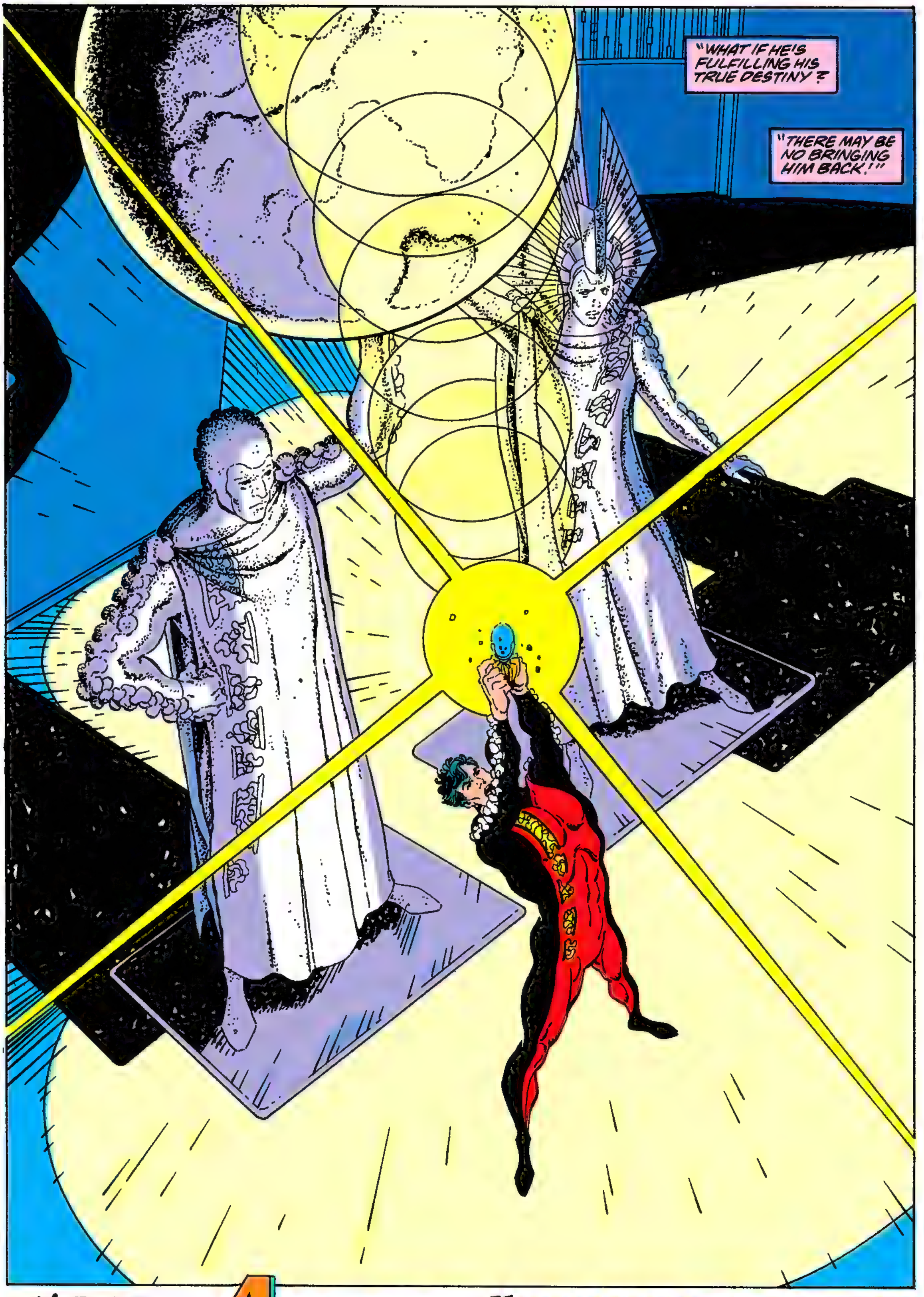
"--SO LITTLE ABOUT KAL-EL.

"WE RAISED HIM THE BEST WE COULD--AS THOUGH HE WERE MERELY HUMAN.

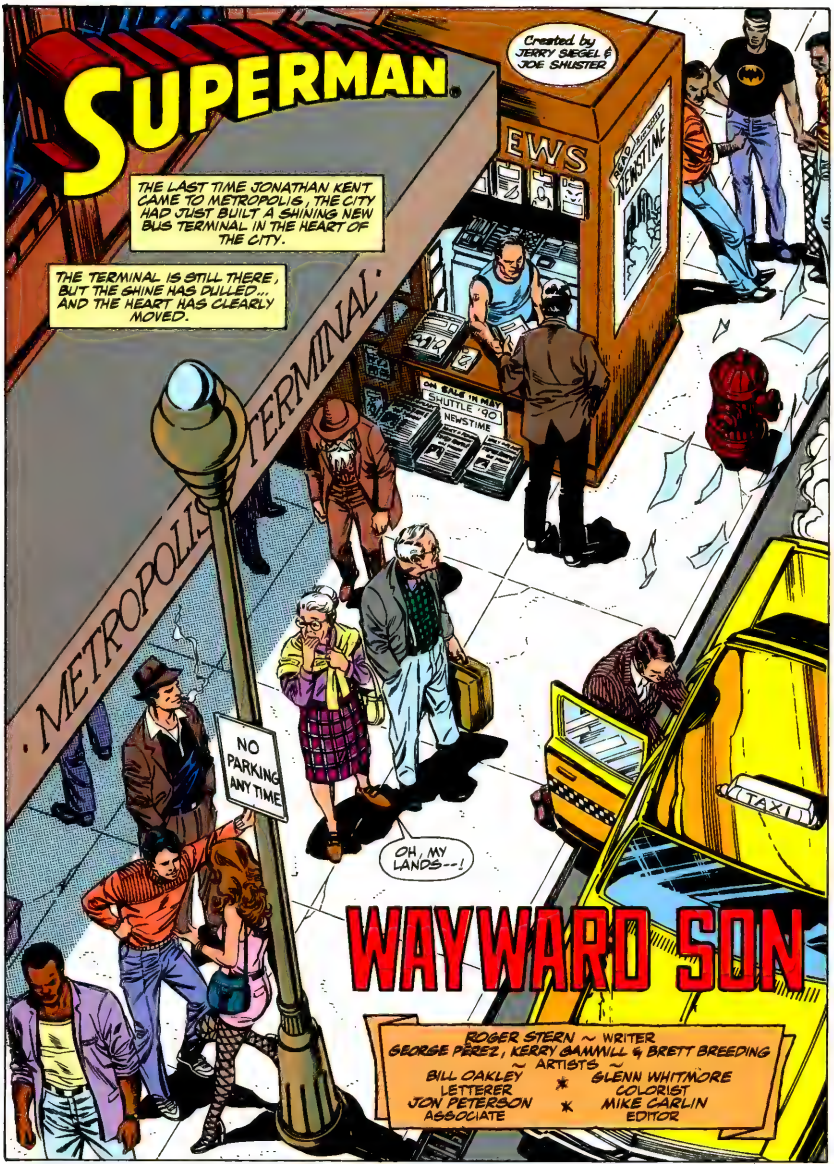
"BUT HE'S NOT.

"WHAT IF THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM?

"WHAT IF THIS IS HIS TRUE NATURE FINALLY SURFACING?"



NEXT WEEK IN: ACTION COMICS #652 "WAYWARD SON"


SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE LAST TIME JONATHAN KENT CAME TO METROPOLIS, THE CITY HAD JUST BUILT A SHINING NEW BUS TERMINAL IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.
THE TERMINAL IS STILL THERE, BUT THE SHINE HAS DULLED... AND THE HEART HAS CLEARLY MOVED.
METROPOLIS TERMINAL
NEWS
NEWSTIME
NO PARKING ANY TIME
OH, MY LANDS--!
TAXI
WAYWARD SON
ROGER STERN ~ WRITER
GEORGE PEREZ, KERRY GAMMILL & BRETT BREEDING
~ ARTISTS ~
BILL OAKLEY ★ GLENN WHITMORE
LETTERER ★ COLORIST
JON PETERSON ★ MIKE CARLIN
ASSOCIATE ★ EDITOR

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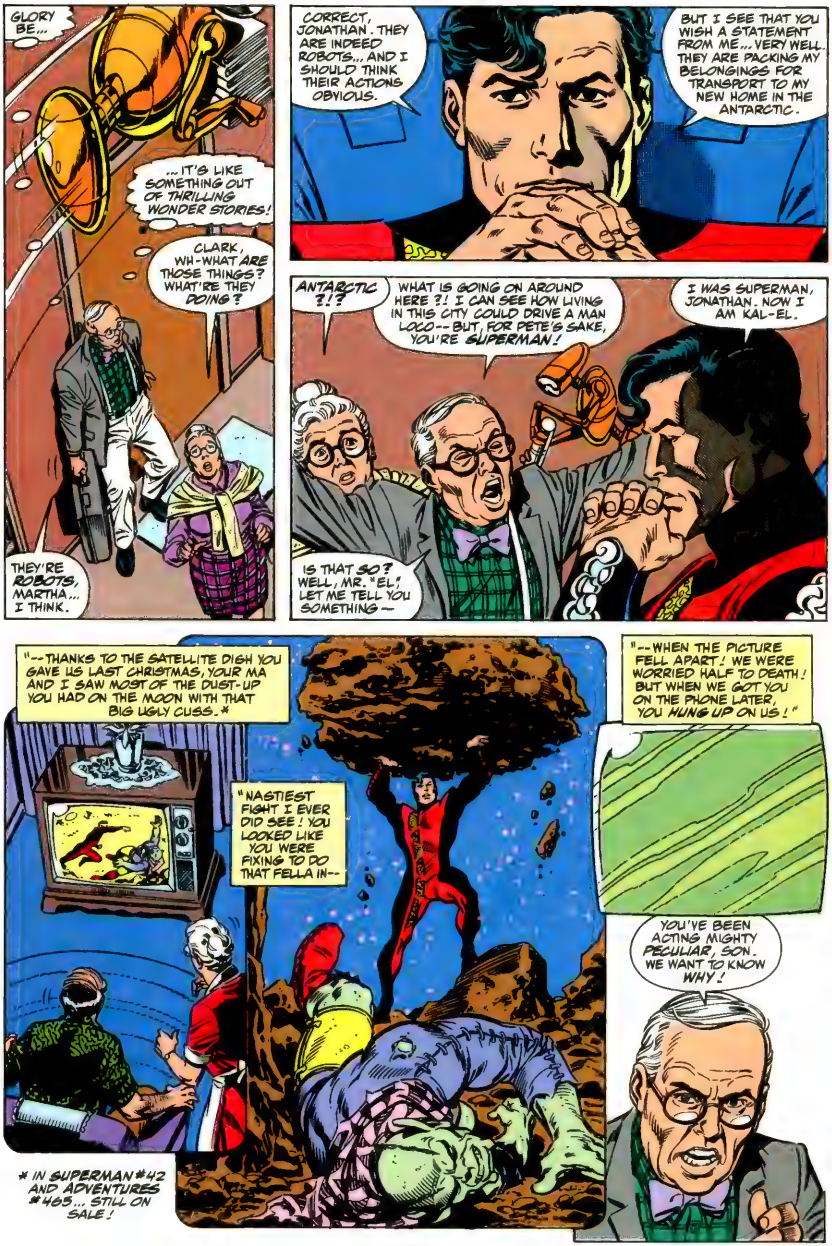
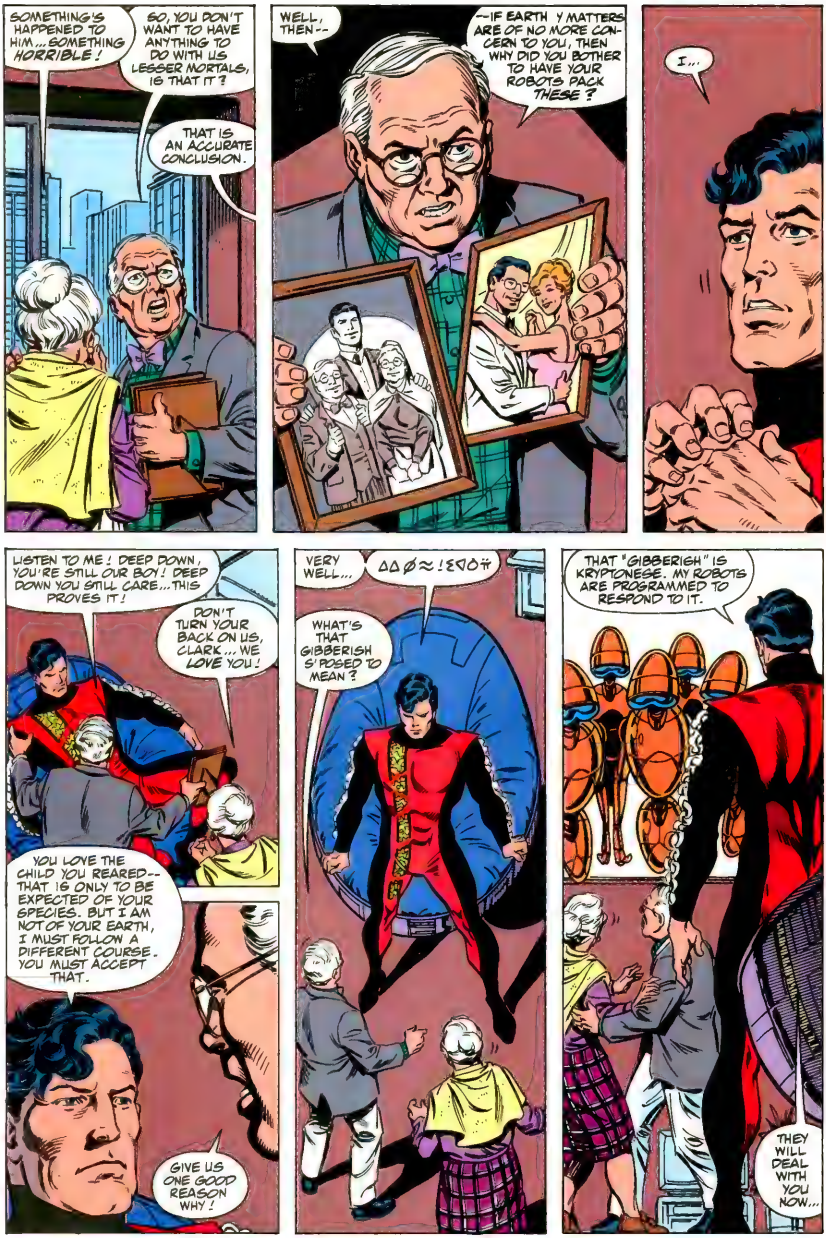
JONATHAN, I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A TAXI IN FROM THE AIRPORT!
HMMPH! WANTED TO CHARGE US $15--HIGHWAY ROBBERY!
STILL... THE AREA HAS CHANGED... MAYBE WE WILL TAKE A CAB TO CLARK'S APARTMENT.
THAT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE TABLOIDS LIKE THEY SELL AT THE QUIK-MART!
NAH, THAT'S THE DAILY EAGLE... IT'S LEGIT. WHERE'VE YOU BEEN--DIDN'T YA HEAR 'BOUT THE BIG FIGHT?
SOOPERMAN WAS IN NEW YAWK, FIGHTIN' SOME MONSTER WHAT STOLE HIS SUIT, AN' SOMEHOW THEY BOTH GOT ZAPPED TO DA MOON--
Metro Eagle
SUPER BATTLE ON THE MOON!
--ALONG WIT' HALF O' THE STATUE O' LIBERTY!
HEY, YOU GONNA BUY THAT OR WHAT?
Metro Eagle
SUPER BAT
ON THE MO
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE STATUE...
TAXI!
HOW MUCH IS IT, YOUNG MAN?
SIX DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS?!? THAT'S AN OUTRAGE!!
LOOK, POPS--I BRUNG YA TO THE CLINTON APARTMENTS, LIKE YA ASKED. THE METER SAYS YA OWE SIX-FIFTY.
JON, PLEASE! DON'T CAUSE A SCENE!
ALL RIGHT. HERE'S SEVEN--KEEP THE CHANGE.
A WHOLE 50¢? OH, GOODIE!
YES, MR. KENT DOES LIVE HERE, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN IN ALL DAY.
COULDN'T YOU LET US IN TO HIS APARTMENT? WE'RE HIS PARENTS!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, FOLKS, BUT I HAVE RULES TO FOLLOW. EVEN IF YOU HAD PROOF OF WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE--!
PROOF? I'LL GIVE YOU PROOF! I'LL GIVE YOU--!
JONATHAN--!

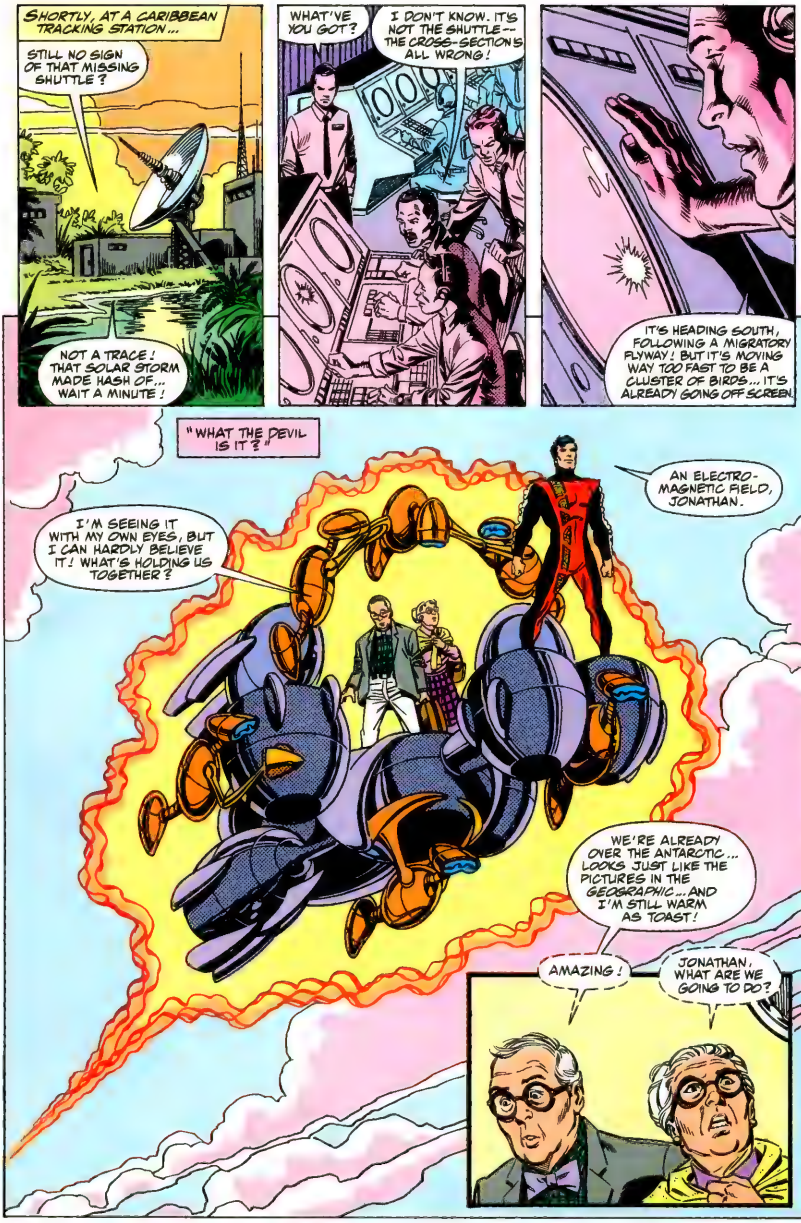
THE MAN'S JUST DOING HIS JOB!
I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THIS CITY... EVERYONE HAS THEIR HAND OUT--!
IS THAT THE PROBLEM? DO YOU WANT US TO PAY YOU TO LET US IN?
I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT, SIR. I MUST ASK YOU TO MOVE ALONG NOW... PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME CALL FOR A COP.
WHA--?
BZZZZZZT
THREE-D? THAT'S MR. KENT'S APARTMENT BUZZING!
MR. KENT? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE--! UH, YES, SIR. YES, THEY ARE. BUT HOW DID YOU--? YES, SIR, I WILL!
MY APOLOGIES, FOLKS...
"...YOU CAN GO RIGHT UP."
YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET.
AM I?
YOU'RE MAD AT ME, AREN'T YOU?
JONATHAN, YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A GROUCHY OLD BULL EVER SINCE WE GOT TO METROPOLIS!
I'M SORRY, MARTHA... GUESS I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT CLARK.
I KNOW... SO AM I. HE'S BEEN ACTING SO STRANGE LATELY. I HOPE WE CAN SORT THIS ALL OUT...
...I DON'T LIKE HAVING MY MENFOLK THIS WAY!
WELL, WHATEVER'S THE PROBLEM, WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT--
3D
--NOW?
OH, MY LORD.

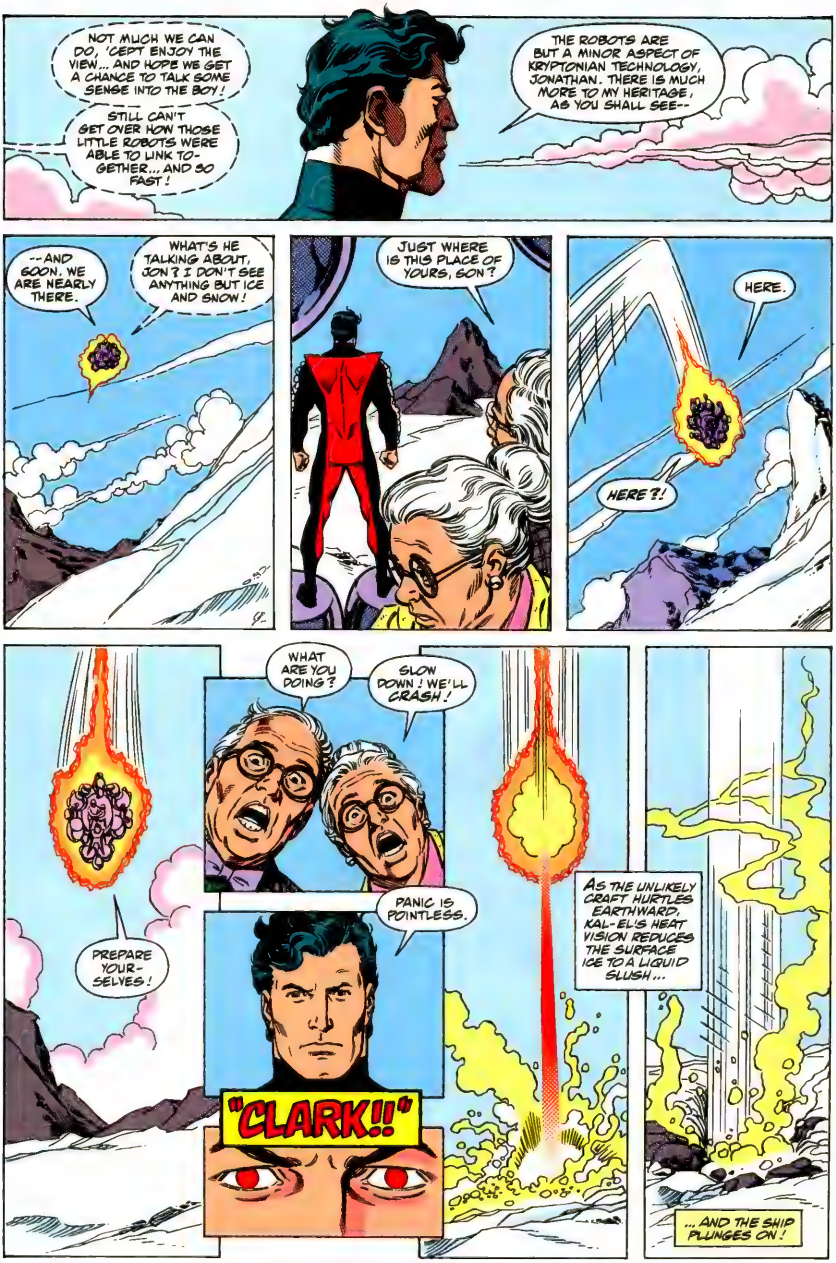
HELLO, MARTHA. HELLO, JONATHAN. I WAS NOT EXPECTING THIS VISIT.
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I HEARD YOU ARGUING WITH THE DOORMAN WHEN I DID. THE APARTMENT STAFF IS VERY CONSCIENTIOUS... HE *WOULD* HAVE CALLED THE POLICE.
PLEASE COME IN.
DIPLOMA
WELCOME TO MY APARTMENT... SUCH AS IT IS.

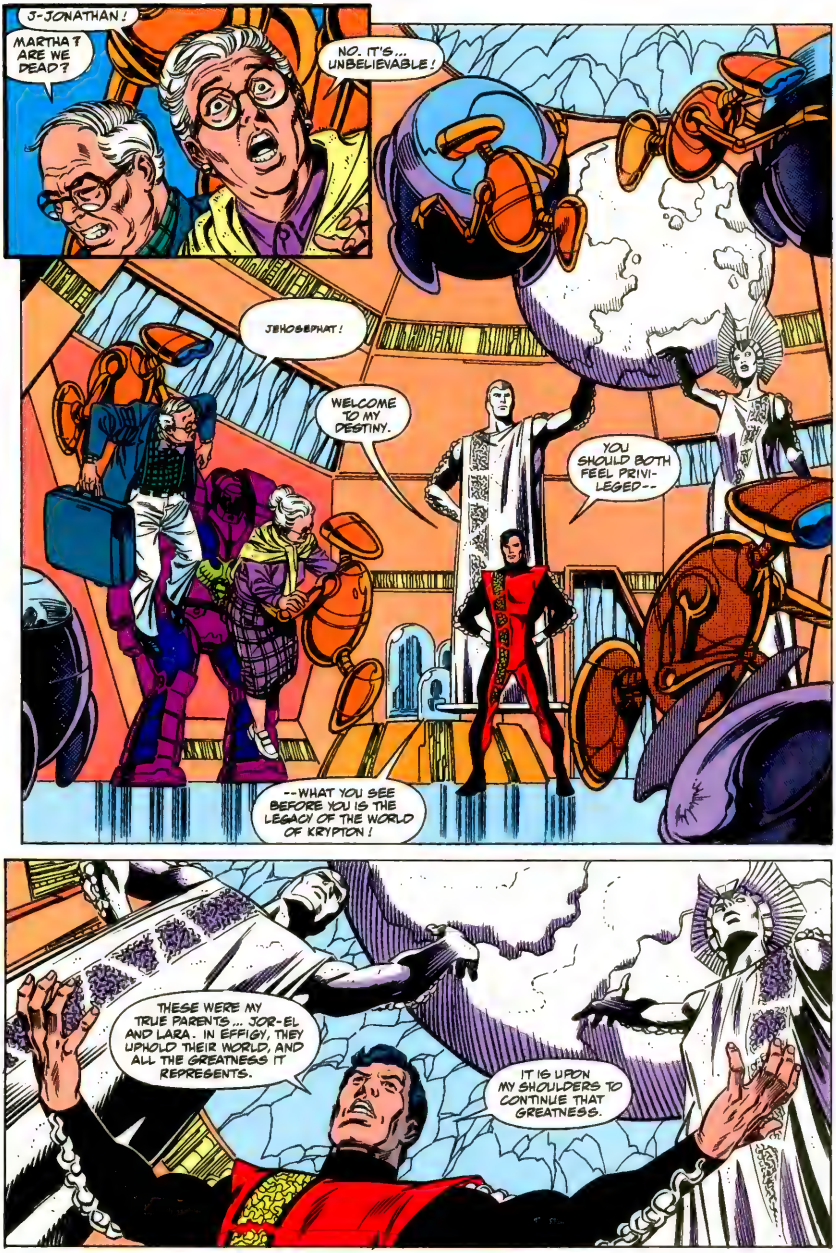

GLORY BE...
...IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THRILLING WONDER STORIES!
CLARK, WH-WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS? WHAT'RE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE ROBOTS, MARTHA... I THINK.
CORRECT, JONATHAN. THEY ARE INDEED ROBOTS., AND I SHOULD THINK THEIR ACTIONS OBVIOUS.
BUT I SEE THAT YOU WISH A STATEMENT FROM ME... VERY WELL. THEY ARE PACKING MY BELONGINGS FOR TRANSPORT TO MY NEW HOME IN THE ANTARCTIC.
ANTARCTIC ?!?
WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND HERE ?! I CAN SEE HOW LIVING IN THIS CITY COULD DRIVE A MAN LOCO-- BUT, FOR PETE'S SAKE, YOU'RE SUPERMAN!
I WAS SUPERMAN, JONATHAN. NOW I AM KAL-EL.
IS THAT SO? WELL, MR. "EL", LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--
"--THANKS TO THE SATELLITE DISH YOU GAVE US LAST CHRISTMAS, YOUR MA AND I SAW MOST OF THE DUST-UP YOU HAD ON THE MOON WITH THAT BIG UGLY CUSS.*
"NASTIEST FIGHT I EVER DID SEE! YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE FIXING TO DO THAT FELLA IN--
"--WHEN THE PICTURE FELL APART! WE WERE WORRIED HALF TO DEATH! BUT WHEN WE GOT YOU ON THE PHONE LATER, YOU HUNG UP ON US!"
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING MIGHTY PECULIAR, SON. WE WANT TO KNOW WHY!
* IN SUPERMAN #42 AND ADVENTURES #485... STILL ON SALE!

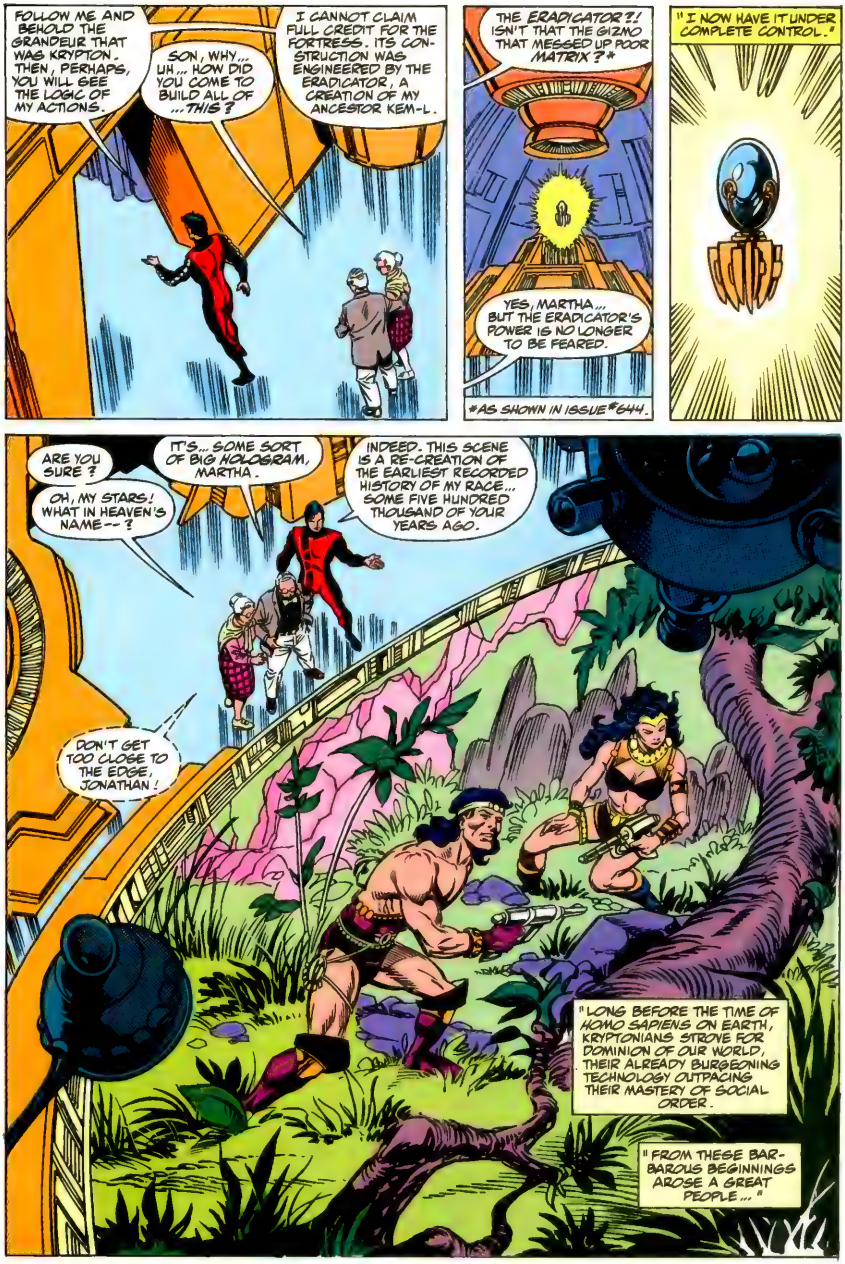
YES, YOU'VE BEEN SO INDIFFERENT ON THE PHONE, AND NOW--! WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING US BY OUR FIRST NAMES?
WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE ADDRESSED AS MR. AND MRS. KENT?
CLARK, PLEASE, WE'RE YOUR PARENTS!
I AM NOT CLARK KENT, I AM KAL-EL. AND ALTHOUGH YOU RAISED ME, YOU ARE NOT MY PARENTS.
WE... WE STILL WANT TO HELP YOU, IF WE CAN. WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE ON THE MOON? THE CREATURE YOU FOUGHT... DID YOU... KILL HIM?
I DID NOT. MY FRIEND PROFESSOR HAMILTON TELEPORTED ME BACK TO EARTH BEFORE I COULD DELIVER THE KILLING BLOW. NO DOUBT HIS TRANSPORT BEAM CAUSED THE TELEVISION INTERFERENCE.
YOU ACTUALLY INTENDED TO KILL HIM?
DRAAGA CHALLENGED ME TO MORTAL COMBAT. WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED THAT I PERISH?
WHAT A THING TO SAY! OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S JUST THAT... WELL, REMEMBER HOW UPSET YOU WERE AFTER YOU... EXECUTED THOSE THREE MURDEROUS SUPER-CRIMINALS?*
IT TOOK YOU FOREVER JUST TO COME TO TERMS WITH THAT.
* IN SUPERMAN # 22.
TRUE. BUT AT THE TIME MY REASON WAS OVERWHELMED BY AN EXCESS OF MISPLACED SENTIMENT.
MISPLACED SENTIMENT?! I DON'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID, "A SUPERMAN MUST NOT KILL."
WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?!?
I HAVE SIMPLY REACHED A STAGE IN MY LIFE WHERE I HAVE SHED THE EMOTIONAL COCOON OF HUMANITY -- AND ADVANCED TO MY PROPER STATION IN LIFE AS A TRUE SON OF KRYPTON.
MY PRESENT ATTIRE IS A SYMBOL OF THAT STATION.
CLARK KENT'S EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN TERMINATED... THE LEASE ON THIS APARTMENT WILL SOON LAPSE. SUPERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE ASSUMED BY OTHERS.
I AM AT LAST FREE TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM AN UNREASONING WORLD.


SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM... SOMETHING HORRIBLE!
SO, YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US LESSER MORTALS, IS THAT IT?
THAT IS AN ACCURATE CONCLUSION.
WELL, THEN--
--IF EARTH MATTERS ARE OF NO MORE CONCERN TO YOU, THEN WHY DID YOU BOTHER TO HAVE YOUR ROBOTS PACK THESE?
I...
LISTEN TO ME! DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE STILL OUR BOY! DEEP DOWN YOU STILL CARE... THIS PROVES IT!
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON US, CLARK... WE LOVE YOU!
YOU LOVE THE CHILD YOU REARED-- THAT IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED OF YOUR SPECIES. BUT I AM NOT OF YOUR EARTH, I MUST FOLLOW A DIFFERENT COURSE. YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT.
GIVE US ONE GOOD REASON WHY!
VERY WELL...
ΔΔØ≈!ƐƩO#
WHAT'S THAT GIBBERISH S'POSED TO MEAN?
THAT "GIBBERISH" IS KRYPTONESE. MY ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND TO IT.
THEY WILL DEAL WITH YOU NOW...

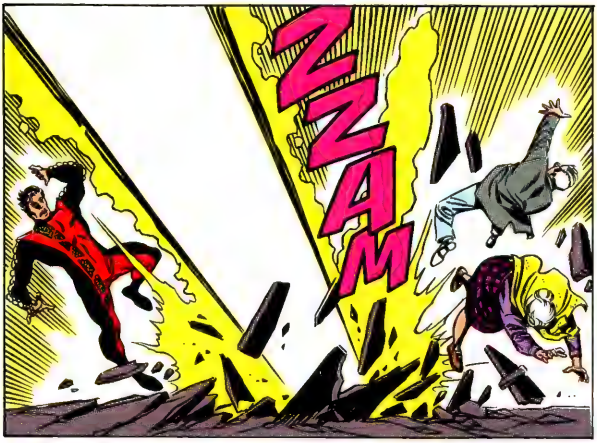

SHORTLY, AT A CARIBBEAN TRACKING STATION...
STILL NO SIGN OF THAT MISSING SHUTTLE?
NOT A TRACE! THAT SOLAR STORM MADE HASH OF... WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT'VE YOU GOT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S NOT THE SHUTTLE -- THE CROSS-SECTION'S ALL WRONG!
IT'S HEADING SOUTH, FOLLOWING A MIGRATORY FLYWAY! BUT IT'S MOVING WAY TOO FAST TO BE A CLUSTER OF BIRDS... IT'S ALREADY GOING OFF SCREEN!
"WHAT THE DEVIL IS IT?"
I'M SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, BUT I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! WHAT'S HOLDING US TOGETHER?
AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD, JONATHAN.
WE'RE ALREADY OVER THE ANTARCTIC... LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PICTURES IN THE GEOGRAPHIC... AND I'M STILL WARM AS TOAST!
AMAZING!
JONATHAN, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?


NOT MUCH WE CAN DO, 'CEPT ENJOY THE VIEW... AND HOPE WE GET A CHANCE TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO THE BOY!
STILL CAN'T GET OVER HOW THOSE LITTLE ROBOTS WERE ABLE TO LINK TOGETHER... AND SO FAST!
THE ROBOTS ARE BUT A MINOR ASPECT OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY, JONATHAN. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO MY HERITAGE, AS YOU SHALL SEE--
--AND SOON, WE ARE NEARLY THERE.
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, JON? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT ICE AND SNOW!
JUST WHERE IS THIS PLACE OF YOURS, SON?
HERE.
HERE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SLOW DOWN! WE'LL CRASH!
PANIC IS POINTLESS.
"CLARK!!"
PREPARE YOURSELVES!
AS THE UNLIKELY CRAFT HURTLES EARTHWARD, KAL-EL'S HEAT VISION REDUCES THE SURFACE ICE TO A LIQUID SLUSH...
... AND THE SHIP PLUNGES ON!

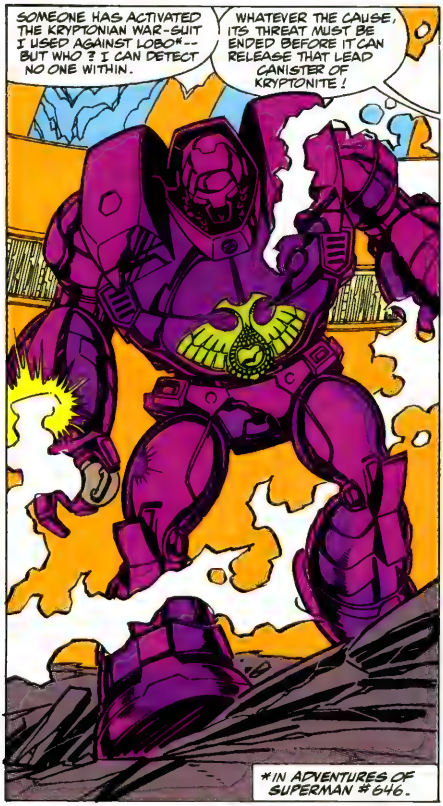

J-JONATHAN!
MARTHA? ARE WE DEAD?
NO. IT'S... UNBELIEVABLE!
JEHOSEPHAT!
WELCOME TO MY DESTINY.
YOU SHOULD BOTH FEEL PRIVI-LEGED--
--WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS THE LEGACY OF THE WORLD OF KRYPTON!
THESE WERE MY TRUE PARENTS... JOR-EL AND LARA. IN EFFIGY, THEY UPHOLD THEIR WORLD, AND ALL THE GREATNESS IT REPRESENTS.
IT IS UPON MY SHOULDERS TO CONTINUE THAT GREATNESS.

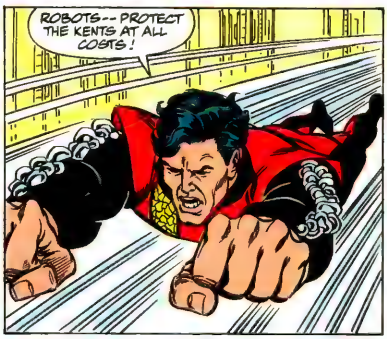

FOLLOW ME AND BEHOLD THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS KRYPTON. THEN, PERHAPS, YOU WILL SEE THE LOGIC OF MY ACTIONS.
SON, WHY... UH... HOW DID YOU COME TO BUILD ALL OF ...THIS?
I CANNOT CLAIM FULL CREDIT FOR THE FORTRESS. ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS ENGINEERED BY THE ERADICATOR, A CREATION OF MY ANCESTOR KEM-L.
THE ERADICATOR?! ISN'T THAT THE GIZMO THAT MESSED UP POOR MATRIX?*
YES, MARTHA... BUT THE ERADICATOR'S POWER IS NO LONGER TO BE FEARED.
*AS SHOWN IN ISSUE #644.
"I NOW HAVE IT UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL."
ARE YOU SURE?
OH, MY STARS! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME--?
IT'S... SOME SORT OF BIG HOLOGRAM, MARTHA.
INDEED. THIS SCENE IS A RE-CREATION OF THE EARLIEST RECORDED HISTORY OF MY RACE... SOME FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS AGO.
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE, JONATHAN!
"LONG BEFORE THE TIME OF HOMO SAPIENS ON EARTH, KRYPTONIANS STROVE FOR DOMINION OF OUR WORLD, THEIR ALREADY BURGEONING TECHNOLOGY OUTPACING THEIR MASTERY OF SOCIAL ORDER.
"FROM THESE BARBAROUS BEGINNINGS AROSE A GREAT PEOPLE..."

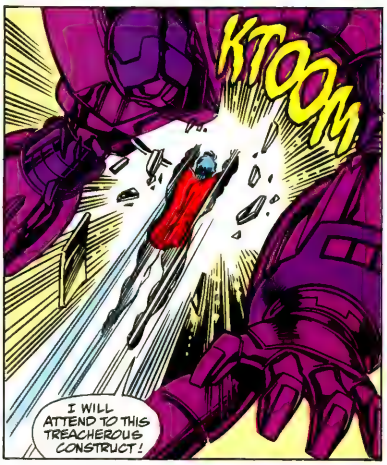
BY THE FIFTH AGE OF KRYPTON, THE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES OF MY PEOPLE DWARFED THOSE OF YOUR WORLD. THEY HAD VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED DEATH--
--BUT THEY WERE STILL TRAGICALLY IRRATIONAL. A MONSTROUS WAR BEGAN, WHICH ALL BUT DESTROYED OUR CIVILIZATION.
THE KRYPTON WHICH EMERGED IN ITS SEVENTH AGE WAS A WORLD PURGED OF EMOTIONAL WEAKNESS... AN AGE OF REASON.
A SMALLER, MORE ENLIGHTENED POPULATION DWELT IN GREAT TOWERING COMPLEXES, MANY TIMES LARGER THAN EARTHLY CITIES, LEADING LIVES OF QUIET CONTEMPLATION...
...COMMUNING WITH THEIR PEERS CHIEFLY BY HOLOGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION. ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WAS RARE.
THIS WAS THE SOCIETY OF MY PARENTS...
...THE HEIGHT OF KRYPTONIAN CULTURE. SURELY, YOU NOW SEE WHY I MUST DEDICATE MY LIFE TO ITS CONTINUANCE?
NO, I DON'T SEE ANY SUCH THING! IF YOU ASK ME, A MAN'D HAVE TO BE A DANG FOOL TO WANT TO LIVE THAT WAY!
THEN, BY YOUR STANDARDS, I AM A FOOL.
I HAD THOUGHT YOU POSSESSED ENOUGH REASON TO UNDERSTAND.
BUT, CLAR... I MEAN, KAL-EL, DIDN'T YOU ONCE TELL US THAT JOR-EL HIMSELF BELIEVED THAT THE KRYPTONIANS HAD LOST SOMETHING?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT HE HAD ADMITTED HIS LOVE FOR LARA? THAT'S EMOTIONAL!
YEAH, AND WHEN THE TIME CAME TO SEND YOU TO A SAFE WORLD, TO ESCAPE KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION, JOR-EL DELIBERATELY SENT YOU TO EARTH...
...TO A PLANET FULL OF EMOTIONAL, "IRRATIONAL" BEINGS! DO YOU DENY THAT?
N-NO... WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE... BUT...

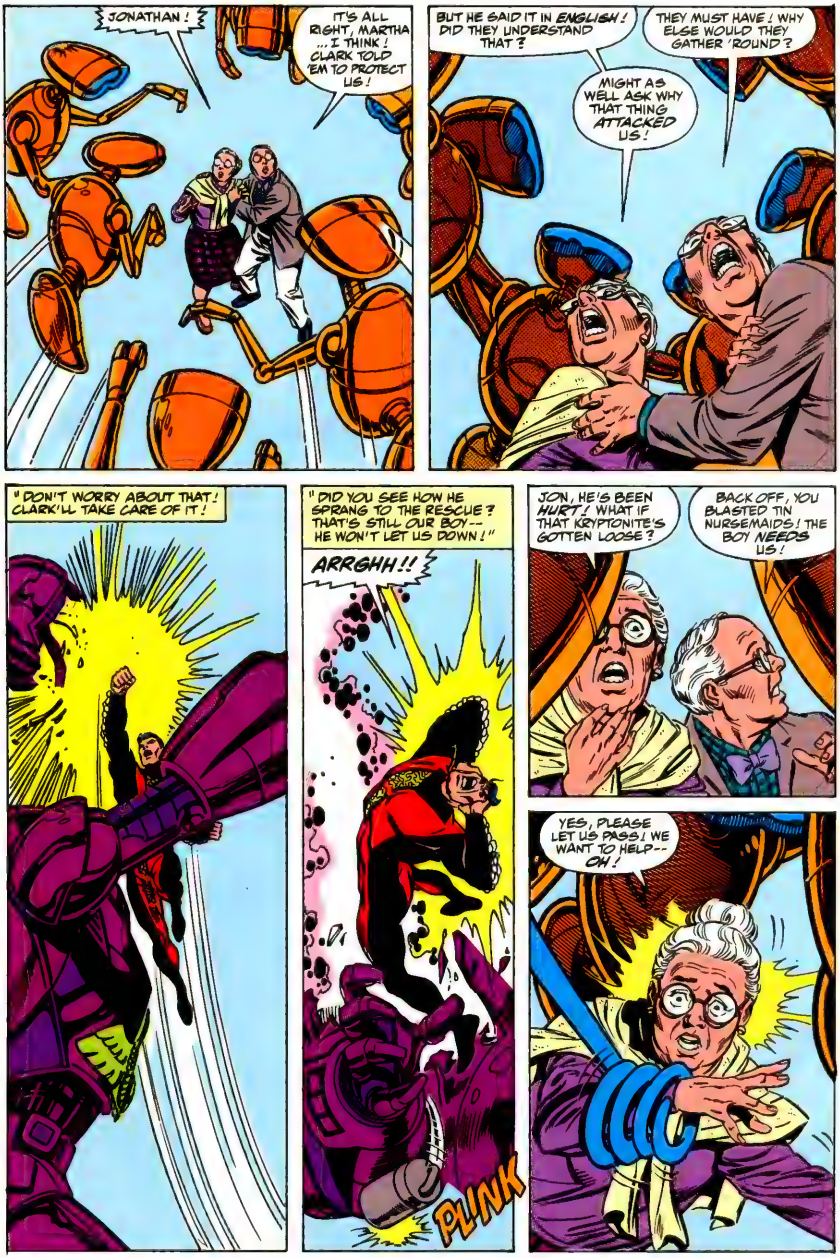

ZNAM

NO! IT CANNOT BE!

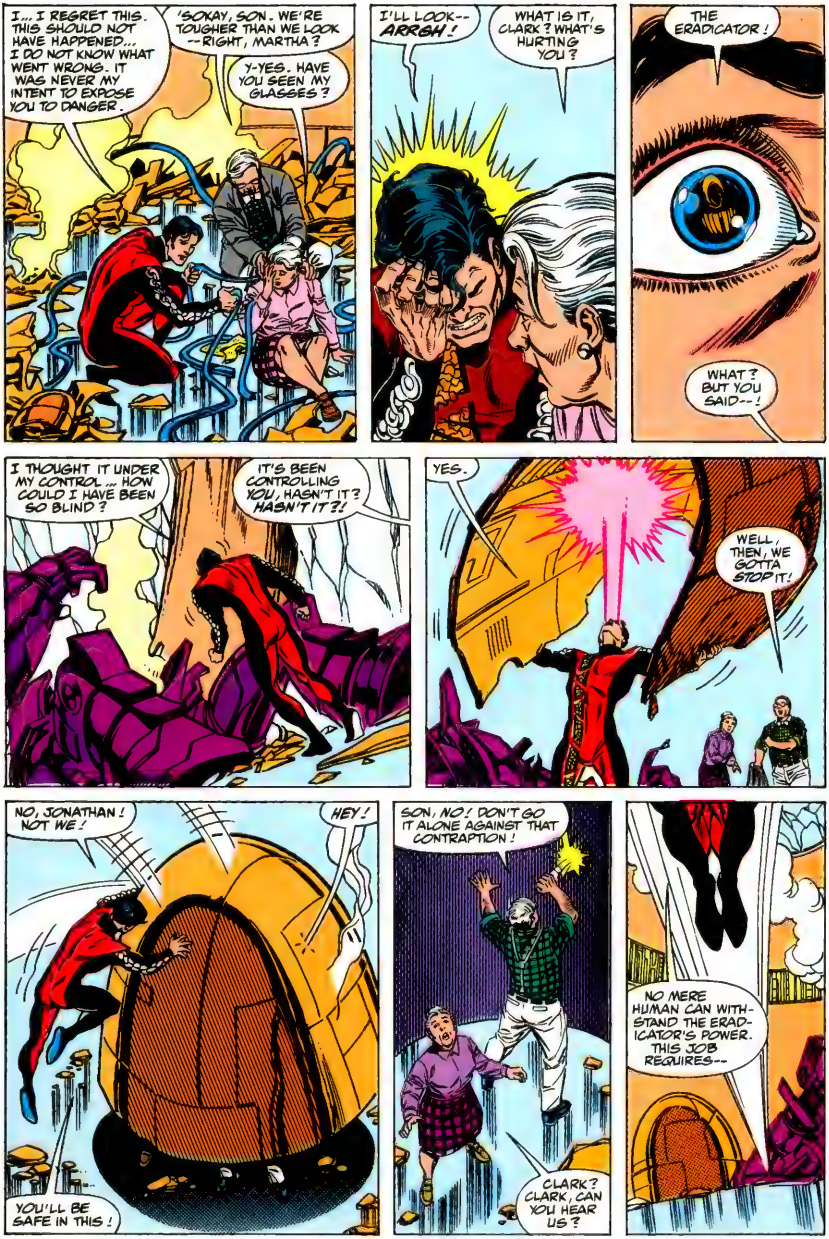

SOMEONE HAS ACTIVATED THE KRYPTONIAN WAR-SUIT I USED AGAINST LOBO*-- BUT WHO? I CAN DETECT NO ONE WITHIN.
WHATEVER THE CAUSE, ITS THREAT MUST BE ENDED BEFORE IT CAN RELEASE THAT LEAD CANISTER OF KRYPTONITE!
*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #646.

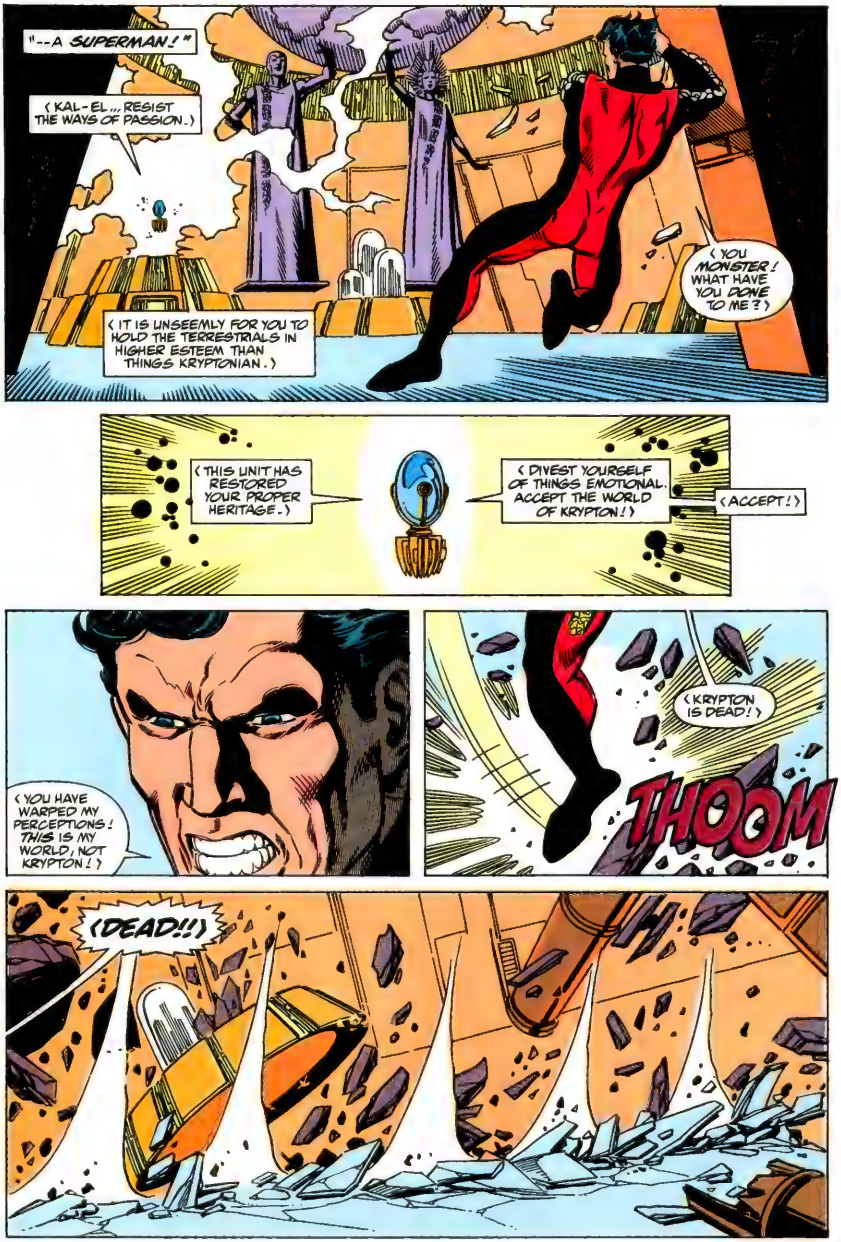

ROBOTS-- PROTECT THE KENTS AT ALL COSTS!


KTOOM
I WILL ATTEND TO THIS TREACHEROUS CONSTRUCT!


JONATHAN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MARTHA ...I THINK! CLARK TOLD 'EM TO PROTECT US!
BUT HE SAID IT IN ENGLISH! DID THEY UNDERSTAND THAT?
THEY MUST HAVE! WHY ELSE WOULD THEY GATHER 'ROUND?
MIGHT AS WELL ASK WHY THAT THING ATTACKED US!
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! CLARK'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
"DID YOU SEE HOW HE SPRANG TO THE RESCUE? THAT'S STILL OUR BOY-- HE WON'T LET US DOWN!"
ARRGHH!!
PLINK
JON, HE'S BEEN HURT! WHAT IF THAT KRYPTONITE'S GOTTEN LOOSE?
BACK OFF, YOU BLASTED TIN NURSEMAIDS! THE BOY NEEDS US!
YES, PLEASE LET US PASS! WE WANT TO HELP-- OH!

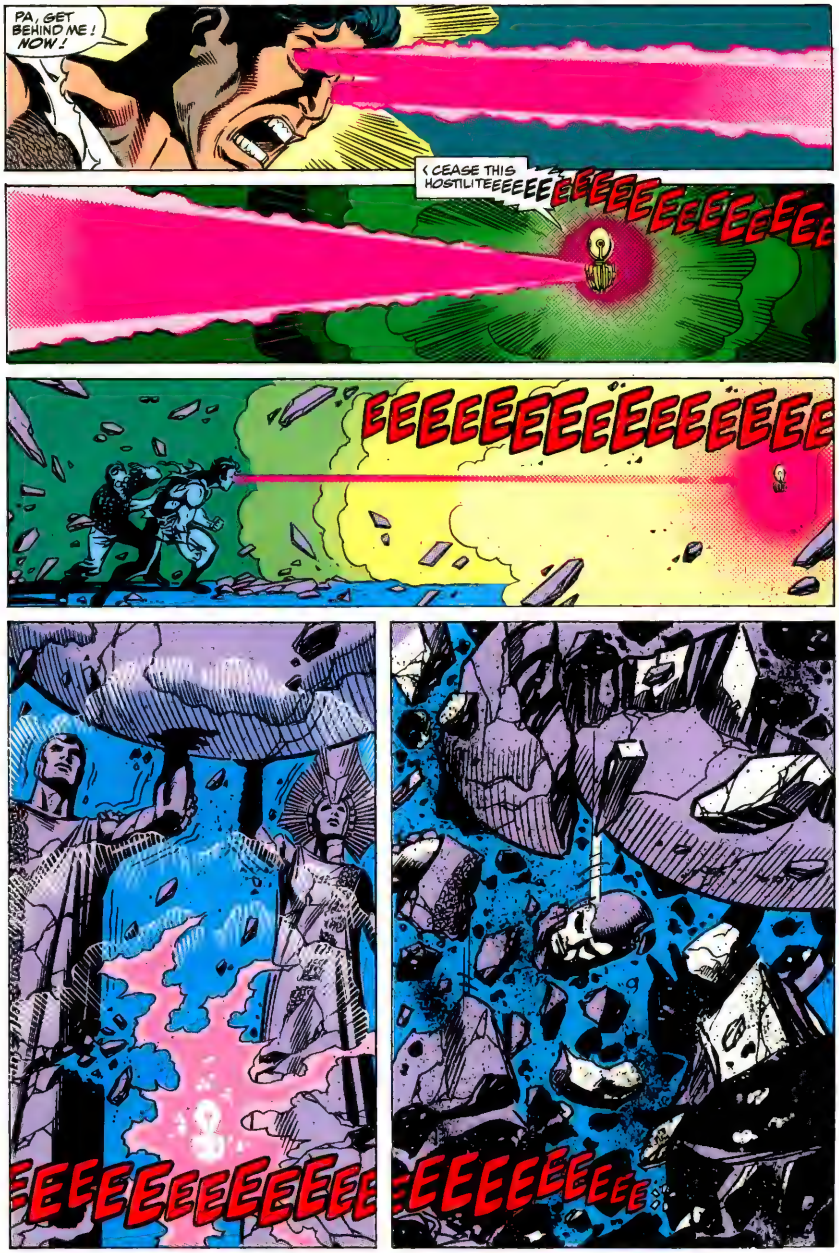
JONATHAN, THEY WON'T LET GO!
DAD-BLASTED--! C-CAN'T DRAW A BREATH--!
C-CLARK... HELP!
MA--!
ЯΔΦƏ!!
〈 DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID--〉*
〈--RELEASE THEM!〉
〈 HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY ME?!〉
* TRANSLATED FROM KRYPTONESE.
YOU SHALL NOT HARM THESE PEOPLE!
SQUEEEE!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!


I... I REGRET THIS. THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED... I DO NOT KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG. IT WAS NEVER MY INTENT TO EXPOSE YOU TO DANGER.
'SOKAY, SON. WE'RE TOUGHER THAN WE LOOK --RIGHT, MARTHA?
Y-YES. HAVE YOU SEEN MY GLASSES?
I'LL LOOK-- ARRGH!
WHAT IS IT, CLARK? WHAT'S HURTING YOU?
THE ERADICATOR!
WHAT? BUT YOU SAID--!
I THOUGHT IT UNDER MY CONTROL... HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?
IT'S BEEN CONTROLLING YOU, HASN'T IT? HASN'T IT?!
YES.
WELL, THEN, WE GOTTA STOP IT!
NO, JONATHAN! NOT WE!
HEY!
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN THIS!
SON, NO! DON'T GO IT ALONE AGAINST THAT CONTRAPTION!
CLARK? CLARK, CAN YOU HEAR US?
NO MERE HUMAN CAN WITHSTAND THE ERADICATOR'S POWER. THIS JOB REQUIRES--

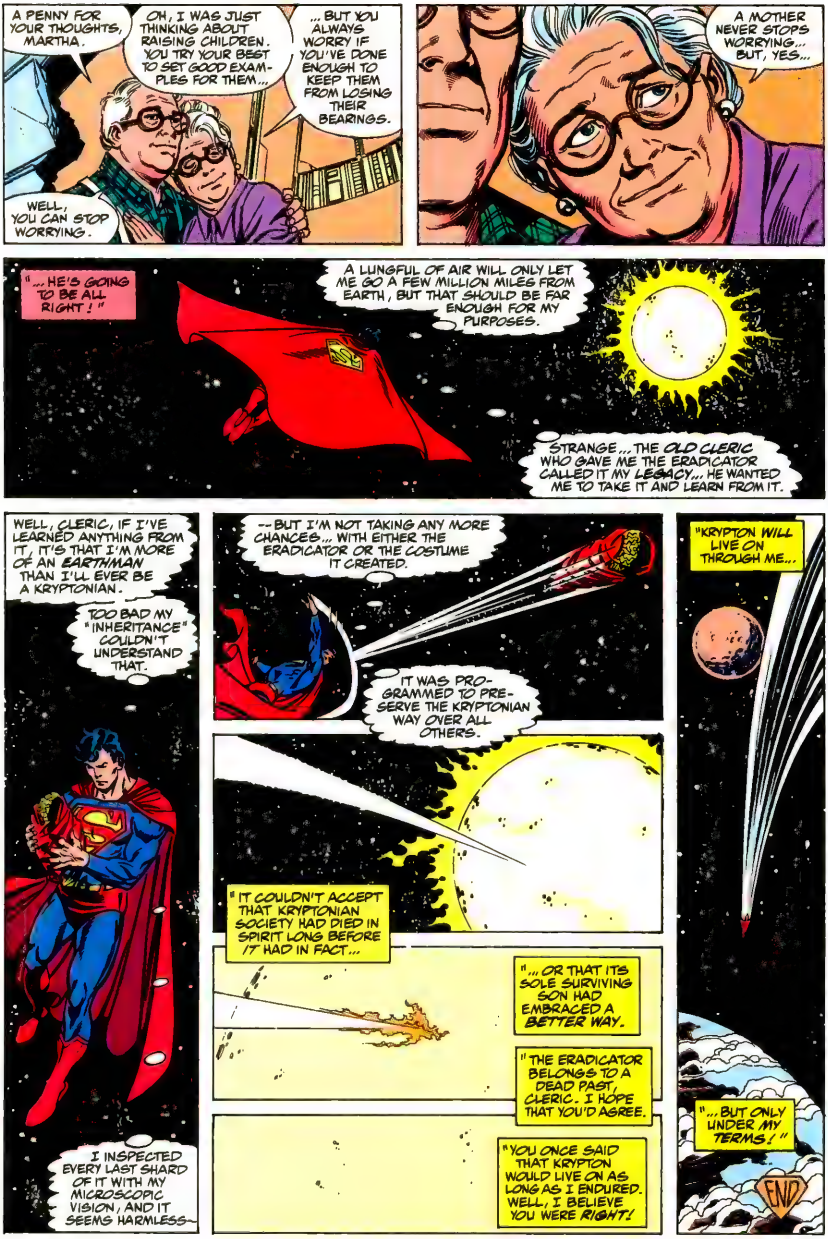

"--A SUPERMAN!"
〈KAL-EL... RESIST THE WAYS OF PASSION.〉
〈IT IS UNSEEMLY FOR YOU TO HOLD THE TERRESTRIALS IN HIGHER ESTEEM THAN THINGS KRYPTONIAN.〉
〈YOU MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?〉
〈THIS UNIT HAS RESTORED YOUR PROPER HERITAGE.〉
〈DIVEST YOURSELF OF THINGS EMOTIONAL. ACCEPT THE WORLD OF KRYPTON!〉
〈ACCEPT!〉
〈YOU HAVE WARPED MY PERCEPTIONS! THIS IS MY WORLD, NOT KRYPTON!〉
〈KRYPTON IS DEAD!〉
THOOM
〈DEAD!!〉

HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, AT A U.S. RESEARCH BASE...
WHAT THE @%&*!! WAS THAT?!
THE WAY THE SEISMOGRAPH IS ACTING--
"--SOMEBODY MUST'VE SET OFF A BABY NUKE!"
JONATHAN! WHAT IS GOING ON?
OUR BOY MUST BE RAISIN' A RUCKUS!
THAT JOLT PUT A GOOD-SIZED CRACK IN THIS EGG.
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M NOT GONNA STAND AROUND IDLE...
"... CLARK MAY NEED A HAND!"
〈WHY DO YOU RESIST? WHY WILL YOU NOT ACCEPT YOUR NATURAL DESTINY?〉
〈I WILL DECIDE MY DESTINY! NO HUNK OF ANCIENT CIRCUITRY WILL CHOOSE IT FOR ME!〉
〈THERE IS NO LOGIC IN YOUR RESISTANCE. WE BOTH ARE OF KRYPTON.〉
〈YES, BUT I WAS BORN ON EARTH! I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE FREE WILL!〉
〈SO MANY HAVE TRIED TO BEND MY WILL... DARKSEID AND AMAZING GRACE...〉

(...SLEEZ ...BRAINIAC ...EVEN MAXIMA.)
(BUT I RESISTED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL ME--)
(--AND I WILL RESIST YOU!)
CLARK'S IN TERRIBLE PAIN! I GOTTA DO SOMETHING, BUT WHAT--?
EH?
(WHEN MY SUPERMAN UNIFORM TRANSFORMED INTO THIS BODY SUIT, I SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED YOUR TOUCH. THIS WAS YOUR CREATION!)
(YOU MUST'VE BEEN MANIPULATING ME THROUGH IT... ALL THESE MONTHS... DULLING MY EMOTIONS.)
(BUT NO MORE!)
(YOU MUST NOT RESIST. YOU ARE THE LAST LIVING KRYPTONIAN.)
(THE LEGACY OF KRYPTON MUST BE PRESERVED. IF YOU WILL NOT SUBMIT, YOUR MIND MUST BE ERASED AND REPROGRAMMED.)
GET BACK, SON! IF THIS THING IS REALLY FROM KRYPTON, MAYBE A LITTLE KRYPTONITE WILL SETTLE ITS HASH!
(RADIATION... DISRUPTING PROGRAMMING.)
(...INTERFERENCE-)
PA?
DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE STILL OUR BOY...
WE LOVE YOU.
KRYPTON IS A COLD, HEARTLESS SOCIETY, MY SON... ONLY YOU CAN ESCAPE OUR DOOM.
YOU'RE SUPERMAN... SUPERMAN BELONGS TO THE WORLD!
SUPERMAN...


PA, GET BEHIND ME! NOW!
CEASE THIS HOSTILITEEE

JONATHAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, MARTHA... I BELIEVE WE BOTH ARE NOW.
CLARK--?
STAY BACK...
...PLEASE! EVEN IN TATTERS, THIS CLOTHING MIGHT STILL HARBOR SOME DANGEROUS ENERGIES. I DON'T WANT YOU TWO HURT.
THEN, THE ERADICATOR--?
THIS TIME, ITS THREAT IS TRULY OVER...
...CRUSHED BENEATH THE OLD MEMORIES OF KRYPTON.
PA, I DON'T TRUST THIS SUIT... IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR GRIP THAT I COULD WEAR?
THIS IS MY DESTINY... TO BE SUPERMAN. IT'S NOT THE EASIEST PATH IN LIFE, BUT IT'S THE ONE I'VE CHOSEN.
JUST KNOWING THAT THE CHOICE WAS MINE, MAKES ME FEEL FREE!
SURE IS! WHEN WE SAW THAT DRAAGA FELLA ON TV WEARING YOUR OLD OUTFIT, YOUR MA PACKED THIS FOR YOU...
...JUST IN CASE!
THANK YOU...
...BOTH OF YOU!
EXCUSE ME NOW...
"...I PROMISE YOU, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!"


A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, MARTHA.
OH, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN. YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO SET GOOD EXAMPLES FOR THEM...
...BUT YOU ALWAYS WORRY IF YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FROM LOSING THEIR BEARINGS.
WELL, YOU CAN STOP WORRYING.
A MOTHER NEVER STOPS WORRYING... BUT, YES...
"...HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!"
A LUNGFUL OF AIR WILL ONLY LET ME GO A FEW MILLION MILES FROM EARTH, BUT THAT SHOULD BE FAR ENOUGH FOR MY PURPOSES.
STRANGE... THE OLD CLERIC WHO GAVE ME THE ERADICATOR CALLED IT MY LEGACY... HE WANTED ME TO TAKE IT AND LEARN FROM IT.
WELL, CLERIC, IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM IT, IT'S THAT I'M MORE OF AN EARTHMAN THAN I'LL EVER BE A KRYPTONIAN.
TOO BAD MY "INHERITANCE" COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.
I INSPECTED EVERY LAST SHARD OF IT WITH MY MICROSCOPIC VISION, AND IT SEEMS HARMLESS--
--BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHANCES... WITH EITHER THE ERADICATOR OR THE COSTUME IT CREATED.
IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO PRESERVE THE KRYPTONIAN WAY OVER ALL OTHERS.
"IT COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT KRYPTONIAN SOCIETY HAD DIED IN SPIRIT LONG BEFORE IT HAD IN FACT...
"...OR THAT ITS SOLE SURVIVING SON HAD EMBRACED A BETTER WAY.
"THE ERADICATOR BELONGS TO A DEAD PAST, CLERIC. I HOPE THAT YOU'D AGREE.
"YOU ONCE SAID THAT KRYPTON WOULD LIVE ON AS LONG AS I ENDURED. WELL, I BELIEVE YOU WERE RIGHT!
"KRYPTON WILL LIVE ON THROUGH ME...
"...BUT ONLY UNDER MY TERMS!"
END

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 034 Day of the Krypton Man

"Terror on the Streets", first appeared in Superman issue #40, released December, 1989
(writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker), Jerry Ordway (inker)

"Speed Kills", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #463, released December, 1989
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

"Reflections", first appeared in Action Comics issue #650, released January 2, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), Curt Swan (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dennis Janke (penciller), George Pérez (penciller), George Pérez (penciller), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Art Thibert (inker), Bob McLeod (inker), Brett Breeding (inker), Dennis Janke (inker), George Pérez (inker), George Pérez (inker)

"Krypton Man", first appeared in Superman issue #42, released February, 1990
(writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Blood Brawl", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #464, released January, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

"The Day of the Krypton Man, Part III: Not of this Earth", first appeared in Action Comics issue #651, released January, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), George Pérez (inker)

"The Nature of the Beast", first appeared in Superman issue #41, released January, 1990
Jerry Ordway (writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"The Last Son of Krypton", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #465, released February, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Art Thibert (inker)

"The Day of the Krypton Man, Part VI: Wayward Son", first appeared in Action Comics issue #652, released February, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), George Pérez (inker)

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